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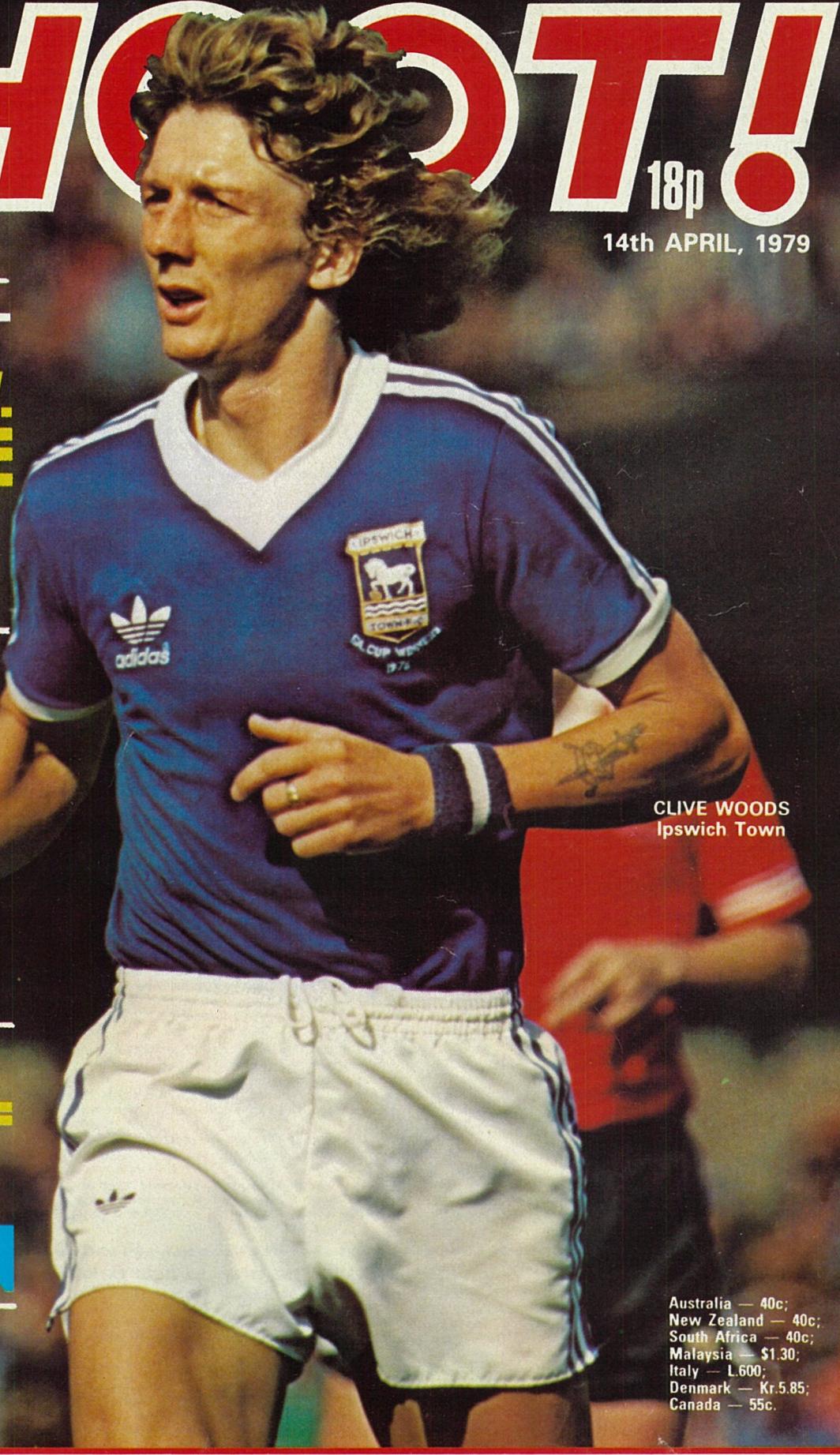
SHOOT!

18p

14th APRIL, 1979

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TROUBLE LOOMING AT TOTTENHAM?

TOTTENHAM manager Keith Burkinshaw could soon be faced with a hat-trick of goalkeeping problems.

Milija Aleksic, recently loaned to Sheffield United, their £100,000 signing from Luton, had been sharing the reserve team place with Barry Daines (left), a regular in the promotion team last season.

"I must do something soon," said Aleksic. "I cost the club a lot

of money and had only played a few first team games before going to United. I hope to prove manager Keith Burkinshaw wrong."

Daines is also unhappy at the prospect of reserve team obscurity and may also thrash out his future with manager Burkinshaw.

The man who kept both of them out, 20-year-old Mark Kendall (right), is unsettled for financial reasons. Apparently he's on a lower salary than his two rivals and he's not too happy about that situation.

"It's a difficult decision," says manager Burkinshaw. "They are all good 'keepers. It's tough choosing between them."



ONE young player attracting a great deal of attention in the Blackburn area, is 20-year-old midfield player Garry Johnston, who plays for Cheshire League side Darwen.

Unfortunately, Garry, also the club's top scorer this season with 13 goals, is out of action at the moment with a broken ankle. But that won't deter Blackburn, Burnley and Sheffield United renewing their interest when he returns to the Darwen side.

Barry Who?

AS motorcycle ace Barry Sheene was at Gatwick Airport bound for Venezuela, he was stopped by an old lady who asked him to act as a courier and take some business documents to South America.

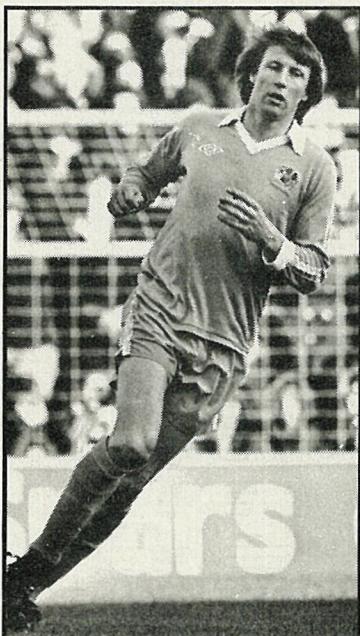
The lady explained to the bemused Sheene she did this quite often — "it's quicker than the post" — and promised him he'd be met at the airport.

Barry was keen to help and do his bit for British industry, so he agreed.

"What's your name?" the old woman asked.

One of Barry's friends, a little peeved, said: "It's Barry Sheene."

"Oh," replied the lady, "I'm sorry ... but I don't follow football!"



IT'S only three years since York City were a Second Division side, yet here they are now struggling to stay out of the bottom four in the Fourth Division.

That's a dramatic slide by any reasoning and manager Charlie Wright knows the uphill path is always more difficult to negotiate.

This much-travelled character is confident though he is building on the right lines and he's particularly excited at the progress of some of his youngsters. "A start has been made and I think everyone knows we have some talented players. But neither the directors nor myself are interested in disposing of our best assets."

That comment was the result of rumours that several leading clubs are keeping a keen watch on City's free-scoring striker Gordon Staniforth and defender Andy Clements.

Staniforth was a £7,500 signing from Hull City during the reign of Wilf McGuinness, but it is only this season — his third at Bootham Crescent — he has really come to the fore.

The club would want a six-figure fee for him now. As for Clements, a free transfer signing from Bolton, he was originally a left-back, but he has played consistently well since switching to the centre of the defence to fill the gap caused by Chris Topping's move to Huddersfield.

Young Lion

MILLWALL youngster Chris Dibble will always be grateful for the help he received from Dario Gradi and Ken Shellito in the days when he was on Chelsea's books.

Both Gradi and Shellito, like Dibble, have moved on from the Stamford Bridge scene, but Dibble, born in Rosehill, Surrey, felt they helped shape his future after his winning of Surrey, London and England schoolboy honours.

Chris, who signed professional for Millwall in November, 1977, rates that his lucky month. He also made his League debut for The Lions, was also named for F.A. Youth honours, and scored four goals as The Lions beat Maidstone 10-0 in an F.A. Youth Cup match.

FEW players were more pleased to see Peter Osgood back at Chelsea than 19-year-old centre-forward Gary Johnson, (now on loan to Crystal Palace for the rest of the season).

"Peter was always my favourite player and it was nice to see him back at Stamford Bridge. I realise I can learn so much from him," says young Gary.

Peckham-born Gary joined Chelsea when he was 12, signed schoolboy forms when he was 15 and was taken on as a professional in August, 1978, with nine other players.

A South London and Inner London schools player and an England Youth trialist, Gary has one big reason for wanting to be successful in the game. He wants to buy his mother and father a house.

City and United team up to help Colin Bell

BARRIERS have been broken between Manchester United and Manchester City to help City's veteran star Colin Bell (left).

David Smith, chairman of United's Supporters' Club, has run a draw to help Bell's testimonial. He has also agreed to serve on the organising committee.

"The response from supporters of United and City has been tremendous," says Smith.

It's this spirit of camaraderie that could prove a God-send to a game that is often harmed by shabby attitudes and actions.

Newcastle eye Parlante

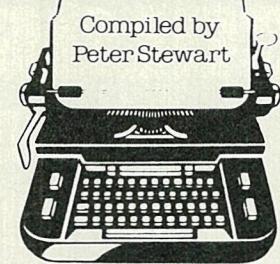
NEWCASTLE manager Bill McGarry is keeping a close watch on Derek Parlante, the international striker who has been put up for sale by Rangers.

"I'll go anywhere in search of first team football," says 24-year-old Parlante, who joined the Ibrox side as a midfield player from Queen's Park and was then converted to a striker.

A move to England or the Continent would obviously suit the player who is still a popular figure with the Rangers support. Two years ago the Ibrox side turned down a £140,000 bid by Birmingham and vice-chairman Willie Waddell described the offer as "peanuts".

NEWS

Compiled by Peter Stewart



DESK

JOHN O'NEILL, Northern Ireland's substitute against England at Wembley, has revealed Sammy McIlroy's shot which hit the post and rocked England momentarily was no fluke shot.

He said: "Sammy had been practising that shot the day before and he hit the same post twice then. We couldn't believe it when we saw him do it again. He was so unlucky."

SHREWSBURY Town's great League and Cup successes this season has hinged upon the very mature displays of their young central-defender Jack Keay. After a spell at Celtic he joined Shrewsbury at the beginning of last season and is getting regular first class reports.

His manager Graham Turner told us: "I had no hesitation in recommending young Jack to Jock Stein for his Under-21 team."

FOURTH TIME LUCKY

WINGER Kenny Stephens has had a lot more luck with his fourth club, Hereford, than he did with Walsall, the second of his four clubs.

Stephens, who started out at West Bromwich and has also had a spell with Bristol Rovers, has played many fine games for Hereford since he joined them from Rovers in October, 1977, and he can count among those appearances his 300th in the Football League.

When he left West Brom for Walsall in December, 1968, he suffered a nasty ankle injury in his first game.

Swansea challenge

SWANSEA, who lost a little ground in the Third Division promotion race in the mid-season period, can be relied upon to make a bold challenge for the Championship.

Player-manager John Toshack was not slow to see the signs of flagging in the make-up of his talented side.

After a recent defeat, he proclaimed: "We are not playing well and I shall have to do something about that."

"The introduction of some promising youngsters might be the answer. There is nothing better than having a challenge for places in a team."

"It may well be that some of my players are wrongly believing they are permanent fixtures in the line-up."

The shrewd signing of versatile Brian Attley for a bargain £20,000 from Cardiff could prove extremely valuable.

The 23-year-old Attley is a Welsh professional Youth cap and could be used for his versatility as The Swans attempt to zoom back to the top.

One thing, Attley is no stranger to the Toshack family. He's always been quite friendly with Colin Toshack, the brother of John.

MORTON's wizard of the dribble Andy Ritchie may soon be parading his considerable talents in the North American League with the Cosmos. Cappielow supremo Hal Stewart, who has connections with the New York club and, in fact, brought two of their players to Scotland, for a spell, flew to America recently to have talks with Cosmos boss Eddie Firmani.

The outcome could be that Ritchie, valued at around £200,000 could play for the Cosmos during the Scottish close season and then return to Morton. Certainly the idea appeals to Ritchie. He says: "It's always been one of my ambitions to play in America."

"I think they would get the best out of me. I like to entertain and that, apparently, is what the players are encouraged to do over there."

Bangor Sign On Billy

NEW Bangor boss Billy Johnston is currently in his third managerial spell with an Irish League outfit.

The one-time Glenavon, Oldham and Ireland inside-forward guided Crusaders to two League triumphs, in 1973 and 1976, and, last term, inspired Ballymena United to a losing Irish F.A. Cup Final appearance v. Linfield, and a first-ever place in Europe.

Incidentally, supremo Johnston is one of not too many all-cap internationals, being honoured at Youth, Amateur, Under-23, Inter-League and full level. Attending a rugby-playing school denied him schoolboy soccer honours, though he did appear for the Ulster Schools' XV.

NICE one, Jim! St. Mirren manager Jim Clunie was obviously upset after his side's shattering 4-1 defeat from Dundee in the Scottish Cup this season, but he refused to pin blame on young goalkeeper Billy Thomson, who was at fault for possibly three of the goals.

"It would be easy to criticise Billy, but, remember what he has done for us in other games," said Clunie. "In fact, we might not even have reached this stage of the tournament if he hadn't saved a penalty-kick from Dundee United in the previous round."

A kick from watching other 'keepers

DAVID Felgate, a 19-year-old goalkeeper with Bolton, gets a great kick out of watching other 'keepers perform — especially Peter Shilton, Ray Clemence and Jimmy Rimmer.

The Blaenau Ffestiniog-born Felgate was twice capped by Wales at schoolboy level and his family have a fair knowledge of the Football League scene.

His father used to play for Sheffield Wednesday and young David went on a loan spell with Rochdale last October.

League of Ireland shock

BASS are to discontinue their sponsorship of the League of Ireland at the end of the season. In a surprise move, the brewery firm, who have backed the League for the past four years with an estimated £250,000, said this is their last season as sponsors.

COMINGS AND GOINGS ... Wolves may be interested in Aberdeen centre-half Willie Garner who has been out of the first team recently after breaking a leg. The Dons have freed former Morton and Hereford left-back Stevie Ritchie, who cost them £20,000 last season and was the scorer of their solitary goal in the defeat from Rangers in the Scottish Cup Final. Torquay are interested. Motherwell manager Ally MacLeod, who recently put 12 players on the transfer list, has freed defenders Peter Miller and Willie McVie. Blackpool and Dundee are interested in Miller and McVie, too, is wanted by several clubs. Celtic have dropped their interest in 24-year-old defender Dermot Keeley, of Dundalk. The Parkhead men were prepared to pay around £30,000, but negotiations broke down. Barnsley, managed by ex-England and Leeds striker Allan Clarke, want former Birmingham goalkeeper Dave Latchford, now with Motherwell. Newcastle and Wolves are both watching young Dumbarston strikers Brian Gallacher and Raymond Blair.

NOTTINGHAM Forest are now going to sell to balance their books following the arrival of £1 million Trevor Francis and plans for that super new £2 million stand.

First to go may be Northern Ireland international Martin O'Neill.

Everton had a recent bid of £350,000 rejected as "too low". Now they might be prepared to offer Mickey Walsh, a striker Brian Clough has long admired, plus the cash.

FACTastic

THE highest total of goals in ONE F.A. Cup-tie is 20. It was a Second Round match in 1924 between Derby County and Newcastle United that went to four desperate battles. The scores were 2-2; 2-2 (after extra-time); 2-2 (a.e.t.) and 5-3 to Newcastle in the fourth game — total 20. In 1955 the Third Round tie between Stoke and Bury narrowly failed to equal that record. It took five games for Stoke to pass into the next round. The scores were 1-1, 1-1, 3-3, 2-2 and 3-2 — a total of 19 goals.

DON'T be surprised if Republic of Ireland manager Johnny Giles gives the goalkeeper's spot to Fulham's Gerry Peyton for the Republic of Ireland's next match, against Denmark in Dublin on May 2nd.

"Gerry has been in superb form and he deserves another chance for his country," says Fulham boss Bobby Campbell.

JOHN MURRAY whose soccer travels took him from Burnley to Brentford via Reading has retired from the game with a record that may never be equalled.

He's the only player in the history of the game ever to hit a hat-trick and be sent-off in the same match.

That happened when he was playing for Bury against Doncaster Rovers in a Fourth Division match in April, 1973.

MEADOWBANK Thistle have signed volleyball player Conrad Johnston to keep goal. He fills the vacancy caused by the departure of Thomson Allan, who was on loan from Dundee but who signed for Hearts.

Johnston (25) is a Physical Education teacher at an Edinburgh school and was signed after two trial games in which Thistle drew 1-1 against Queen's Park at Hampden and lost by only 1-0 in another away game against Dunfermline Athletic.



Westminster Wobblers

AS A Labour Member of Parliament, Ann Taylor knows a little about the Left Wing. So, it's hardly surprising that the 31-year-old Junior Whip was picked for a House of Commons team ... playing soccer.

Ann, M.P. for Bolton West, turned out at inside-left recently in a charity match between the M.P.s' side, the Westminster Wobblers and former stars of Orient and Tottenham Hotspur.

• Ann (back row centre) with Westminster Wobblers.

FORMER Chelsea star Ian Hutchinson has joined Cork Alberts until the end of the season.

The man who used to be known as "Hutch the Hurl" has been assisting Southern League Dartford and joined the Republic of Ireland club in their bid for the F.A. Cup.

Ian has lost none of the length in his famous throw-ins and is still scoring goals. He grabbed one in the Cork side's Quarter-Final win over Drogheda United, which gave them a first ever Cup Semi-Final appearance.

Another former Chelsea star at Flower Lodge is Bobby Tambling.

THE Sports Council have contributed £100,000 towards the cost of West Ham's new training headquarters at Chadwell Heath, Essex.

Among the features included will be an Astroturf playing surface and an indoor ball-court for use during bad weather.

THE FOURTH Division is the place for quick hat-tricks — but the home crowds are not seeing them!

Les Bradd (Stockport v. Barnsley) joined Bernie Wright (Port Vale v. Crewe) with three goals in eight minutes. But they were playing in away matches.



Wayne's silenced his critics

WAYNE Clarke: (above), youngest member of the famous Midland soccer family, is now beginning to make a name for himself in the Wolves side.

Wayne, who recently celebrated his 18th birthday, has made rapid progress since John Barnwell took over as manager.

He said: "Earlier this season I came in for some criticism for my work-rate. But this has been stepped up since the arrival of John Barnwell and Richie Barker.

"Mind you, they used to say the same thing about my brother Allan and he didn't do so badly with Leeds and England, did he?"

'I've always done my best for Blackpool'

Billy Ronson

BLACKPOOL midfield player Billy Ronson (below) has denied he has been playing for a move. He says he has always done his best and will always continue to give 100 per cent effort.

Ronson is on the carpet for his disciplinary record, which manager Bob Stokoe has said indicates Ronson is unreliable. He was booked nine times last season and has been shown the yellow card eight times this season.

Ronson says: "My fiancee and I are buying a house in Fleetwood, and I was quite happy to play out the end of my contract, do my best for Blackpool and see what developed from there."

"I have never stopped trying and it is not true I don't care about the club. Of course, I would like to play First Division football eventually, but I have not pushed for a move."



GOAL-LINES

This week's Star Letter comes from Alan Richardson of Orpington, Kent, who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE

WHAT a superb League Cup Final it was! Congratulations for this must go to everyone involved, but in particular...

LAWRIE McMENEMY who talked to a television reporter at half-time, realising that without the Press soccer would be dead.

ALAN BALL who was encouraging his less experienced teammates when Southampton were ahead and behind.

BRIAN CLOUGH who acknowledged the important part Peter Taylor has played in Forest's success and allowed his assistant to lead out the team.

PETER REEVES the referee who kept the game flowing at all times.

GARRY BIRTLES netted four times, but only two of the goals counted.

THE CROWD who gave the Final such an atmosphere.

● Not only was it the best League Cup Final I've seen, but one of the best Finals of any competition.



Brian Clough (right) with Lawrie McMenemy.

Let's hope the F.A. Cup Final is as good.

500 Up

CONGRATULATIONS to SHOOT on reaching 500 editions. Your 7th April issue was your 500th and in August you'll celebrate your tenth anniversary. I've spent around £50 on magazines and £25 for binders since 1969 and my best wishes to all the staff.

PETER HALL,
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.

● How time flies! We just hope readers have had as much pleasure reading SHOOT as we have in compiling it. Here's to the next 500!

Weak Hosts

● READ in World Wide the United States hope to stage the World Cup Finals. Isn't it bad enough having weak Asian teams in the Finals without a weak one as hosts?

JOHN ROCHE,
RUGBY.

● Do you mean "weak" Asian sides like Iran, who drew 1-1 with Scotland? Or Tunisia, who were unlucky only to draw with West Germany?

Kenny Tops

ONCE again it seems Kenny Dalglish has been forgotten when it comes to the annual players' trophies. Personally, I think he is better than the winners.

I don't deny P.F.A. Player of the Year Liam Brady is world-class, or that Osvaldo Ardiles has adapted well to the toughest League there is.

But Dalglish also had to adapt and has been a consistent scorer in his two years with Liverpool. He deserves more credit.

JANE LIVESLEY,
SOUTH RUISLIP.

● Kenny won the SHOOT 'Most Exciting Player of the Year' award last year. Perhaps his "trouble" is he is less of an individual, brilliant player though he is, than the others. Kenny gives 100 per cent to the team and playing in England's best side, he is unlikely to stand out like Ardiles, with Spurs, a middle-of-the-table team.

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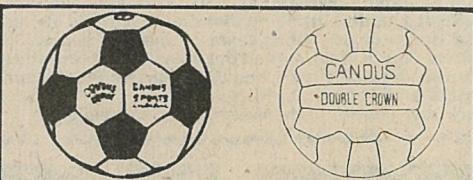
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AVAILABLE
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KING: This is a vital game for both of us. It just could not be more important, for neither of us can afford to slip in the chase for the First Division title.

BATSON: That's absolutely right. A lot of people have already given the Championship to Liverpool — but that's nonsense. Anything can happen yet and I don't think the issue will be decided until the closing stages of the season. We certainly won't give anything up until it's mathematically impossible for us to take the title.

KING: The same goes for us. We hit an indifferent spell a little while back that did not do our chances any good. But all the signs are we are back to our best now and we'll give those Reds from across the road a good run for their money. It's not over yet by any means.

BATSON: Every game is going to be hard from now on. But the one against your Everton lads will be more difficult than most. You never have been easy to beat and we know we'll be in for a tough afternoon. You have become as awkward to master as Liverpool in recent years — and there can be no higher praise than that.

KING: We certainly have got a useful side here, that on its day is a match for anyone. I have not come up against Albion yet this season. But from what I've seen on the television and read in the papers

you are going well yourselves. It's a shame our match at Goodison, scheduled for December 2nd had to be called off due to the bad weather. I was looking forward to an early Christmas present.

BATSON: I can assure you Albion would have been in no mood to give anything away. But we have had a great season — and are determined to make it all really worthwhile by winning something. We were after three honours — League, F.A. Cup and U.E.F.A. Cup — and our defeat at Southampton in the F.A. Cup and by Red Star Belgrade in the U.E.F.A. Cup were bitter disappointments to all of us.

KING: I bet they were. Like most people I expected you to make progress in Europe. The fixture pile-up you found yourselves involved in after the big freeze-up must have been partly responsible for those set backs. No team can do themselves justice if forced to play eight games in nineteen days, as you were.

BATSON: It did not help, that's for sure. In addition to a lot of hard, important matches we also had to

do plenty of travelling — and that drained us physically and mentally. But I'm sure we'll be in good shape to take you on.

KING: You will need to be, if you hope to get anything from the game. We are all looking forward to it — because we know we will get a chance to play football at The Hawthorns. Albion are renowned for their open, attacking style — and that suits us just fine.

BATSON: Thanks. But all the footballing ability in the world is no good unless you have a determination to kill people off. We have got that, for we know we can't afford to give away anything to anybody — least of all our biggest rivals for the title. So don't say you have not been warned!

KING: We don't need any warning, we know you are more than capable of taking anyone apart. You have good players right through the side. Cyrille Regis always has good games against us and will be one to watch in particular. Tony Brown seems to go on forever and we are well aware of the goals he gets from midfield. You have obviously had a marvellous first full

season yourself and your full-back partner Derek Statham is one of the most brilliant youngsters in the game.

BATSON: You are not doing so bad yourself when it comes to scoring goals, so we'll be keeping a careful eye on you. Another who can cause problems is Dave Thomas — who provides the crosses for big Bob Latchford to feed off. But it's pointless to single out individuals — you will all be going hard for a win. Your boss, Gordon Lee, has really got you going.

KING: I'd love to add to my goal tally by scoring against you and helping to beat you. I'll have missed a couple of games through suspension immediately before we visit you. So I'll be bursting to get back into action. We'd be delighted to get a point from the game — but that won't be our aim — I can assure you. We'll be looking for the two, like we always do.

BATSON: That's good news, for it should mean a cracking game for the fans. But our schedule is easing now and we will have the spring back in our step. We've got to fancy ourselves against anyone at our place — so I think you could well be drowning your sorrows in the players' bar after the game. Here's to a really great match, anyway. Like you I'm looking forward to it very much.

BIG MATCH

CROSSTALK

West Brom defender BRENDON BATSON (right) and Everton midfield player ANDY KING (left) discuss their vital Championship clash at The Hawthorns this Saturday (April 7th).



ONE of the most significant developments in the game in recent years is the realisation goal-savers are almost as important as goalscorers. Proof of this is 'keepers command almost as much as strikers in today's transfer market.

West Ham invested over half-a-million pounds in Phil Parkes from Q.P.R. to enhance their prospects of gaining promotion to the First Division.

Every successful team is built around a sound defence, of which the 'keeper is a key part.

There is nothing to be gained by a team having the ability to score goals unless they are equipped to hold down to a minimum those scored against them.

It's a truism that a good 'keeper is worth points to his team every season. Some say as many as ten, but I would put it at around four or five. 'Keepers such as Peter Shilton, having a marvellous season with Forest — that save he made in Nottingham Forest's home first-leg in the European Cup Quarter-Finals proved to be vital — Joe Corrigan of Manchester City and, of course, Phil Parkes.

Modesty aside, I'd like to include myself amongst that group.

There's no greater satisfaction for a 'keeper than to be rewarded at the end of a hard week's training — flinging oneself about on hard or muddy ground, driven on by coaches seeking perfection — with a high-rating performance in a big match. It makes all the effort worthwhile.

For this week's column I'd like to recall some of the saves of which I have been especially proud in recent years — my ten best, in fact.

On January 25th, 1975, Liverpool, as F.A. Cup-holders, travelled to Portman Road for an F.A. Cup Fourth Round tie with Ipswich Town.

Their left-winger, Clive Woods, who had come on as substitute in the second-half, shot powerfully to my left from the edge of the penalty-area. I dived across, and just managed to get my fingertips to the ball to deflect it around the post.

I tried not to make too much of my effort, simply because the referee was under the misapprehension Clive had shot wide, and blew for a goal-kick.

Unfortunately, our luck didn't

hold and in the dying minutes Ipswich skipper Mick Mills slid the ball past me for the only goal of the game, to end our hopes of retaining the Cup for another season.

Save number two came in a derby game at Goodison Park against our Merseyside rivals Everton, and was one of the reasons why this high-tension affair ended goal-less.

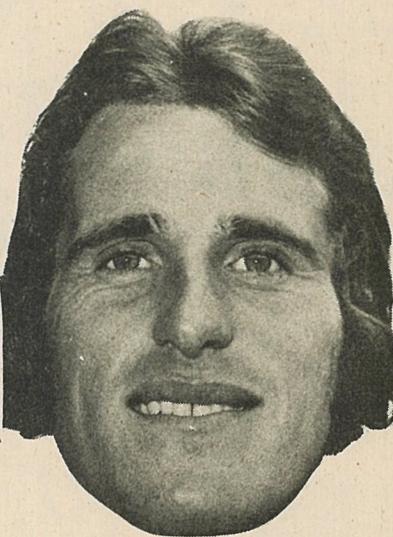
Their Gary Jones had the ball. I was drawn out near the edge of the area, he rounded me and lofted the ball to his team-mate Bob Latchford on the far post.

As I scrambled back, I guessed Bob would aim for a tempting spot on the far post — and I was right! Somehow I stretched myself to



'MY TOP TEN

RAY CLEMENCE
talking soccer



the limit and succeeded in pushing the ball out to safety. Bob afterwards paid me the compliment of saying it was one of the best saves he'd ever seen.

Save three was from Manchester United's Sammy McIlroy in a League game which we won by 3-1 at Anfield on November 8th, 1975.

Steve Coppell, now an England team-mate of mine, took a corner which he drove towards the near post. My defenders and I were distracted by Stuart Pearson, who ran at the ball, and flicked it across the goalmouth to Sammy, virtually unmarked.

Without pausing he fired in a deadly shot. But already I had recovered, and was flinging myself backwards. Somehow I managed to tip the ball over the bar. Out of the corner of my eye I saw Sammy holding his head in his hands.

Saving in the heat of the moment is one thing. Often it's a reflex action. But saving from a well-struck penalty-kick while the game is stopped is a harder task. The odds are dead against you as the kicker places the ball on the penalty-spot, which seems a lot closer even than 12 yards.

My most memorable penalty save came in a U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter-Final in Dresden, East Germany, against Dynamo Dresden in 1976. In

the 51st minute, Ray Kennedy brought down their Udo Schmuck in our area, and Peter Kotte, their spot-kick specialist, was called upon to do his stuff.

This was where Liverpool's policy of painstaking preparation really paid dividends. For our "European spy", Youth Development Officer Tom Saunders, had tipped me off Kotte had a tendency to place the ball high to the 'keeper's right.

So as he shot I went that way, except this time he struck low and I had to reach down to deflect the ball for a corner (above).

The game ended goal-less and we went on to win the U.E.F.A. Cup for the second time.

On August 14th, 1976, we met Southampton at Wembley in the Charity Shield, now the traditional curtain opener to the season. Mike Channon was still with them then, and it was in the 89th minute, with Liverpool leading by a John Toshack goal, that he made an angled shot directed inside the far post. I was going for it when it suddenly struck Emlyn Hughes, our captain, and changed direction entirely.

I also had to make a rapid change of direction to turn the ball round for a corner.

A minute later the final whistle blew and, as we walked off winners of the Shield, Emlyn joked: "

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England defeats

How many countries — other than Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland — have beaten England in a full international on English soil?

**RICHARD GRAY,
DUNSTABLE**

• Only seven, Richard — starting with our Eire neighbours, by 2-0 on Everton's ground, on 21st September, 1949.

All the other home defeats were at Wembley — 6-3 by Hungary on 25th November, 1953; 3-2 by Austria on 20th October, 1965; 3-1 by Sweden on 28th October, 1959; 3-1 by West Germany on 29th April, 1972; 1-0 by Italy on 14th November, 1973; and 2-0 by Holland on 9th February, 1977.

Fewest goals

Which club has scored the fewest Football League goals in a season?

**INNES FRASER,
GLASGOW**

• Since clubs have played a minimum of 42 League games, Innes, Watford hold that unenviable record.

In Division Two, in 1971-72, they managed only 24 goals — but, in Division One, Leicester weren't far off with only 26 last season.

Barnsley

What are the main honours that Barnsley have won?

**ANDREW BUXTON,
BARNESLEY**

• Although never getting higher than Second Division status, Andrew, your local club can count themselves amongst the long list of F.A. Cup-winners.

That was in 1912 when, in a replayed Final, they beat West Bromwich 1-0. Two years earlier, they'd also been in the Final — going down (similarly after a replay) 0-2 to Newcastle.

Barnsley have also three times been Champions of the old Third Division (North) — in 1933-34, 1938-39, and 1954-55.

Most defeats

Which club has lost the most First Division games in a single season?

**PETER LINDSEY,
ROMNEY MARSH**

• That unwelcome record is shared by

'Save four — from a penalty-kick'

deep on the memories of everyone at Liverpool F.C.

The night the Reds of Anfield at last achieved their dream of capturing the European Cup.

The high drama for me happened in the second-half against Borussia Mönchengladbach. The scores were level at one-all. Liverpool had lost their rhythm after the Simonsen equaliser. Then in a lightning counter-attack their main striker, Stielike, charged clean through with the ball. There was only me be-

tween him and our goal — between Borussia going a goal up and the scores remaining level.

Stielike shot, I spread myself to form the biggest obstacle possible, and was rewarded by seeing the ball rebound to safety.

I made a similar sort of save for number eight, which was against Brazil in England's close season tour that same year.

For a long period after the kick-off, England played exceptionally well, looking the superior side, until our personal time clocks, upset by long-distance travel, began to react on us. To them it was about two o'clock in the morning, and we should have been asleep, not tearing around a football pitch playing one of the most famous teams in the world.

We began to fade, and the Brazilians got on top for the last 30 minutes, playing some brilliant one-two's. Their Rivelino, capable of lightning acceleration and lethal finishing, suddenly burst into the box. All I could do was to hurl myself off my line at his feet to block the ball.

For weeks I carried around the legacy of that save — a big, black bruise on my thigh.

Save number nine may well have been the reason why we, and not Arsenal, got through to last year's League Cup Final at Wembley.

We'd beaten The Gunners, 2-1, at

Anfield in the first-leg of the Semi-Final and went to Highbury for the second-leg.

They looked like getting on level terms when a ball played over the top of our defence landed ahead of Malcolm Macdonald, heading at me like a one-man cavalry charge.

There was only one thing for me to do. Narrow the angle, present him with as little space as possible to aim for.

He shot — and my outflung hand deflected the ball over the bar. We went on to achieve the goal-less draw that took us to Wembley.

The save to complete my top ten came in our Fifth Round F.A. Cup tie with Burnley, Lancashire neighbours, at Anfield in February.

Only a few days before, Burnley had beaten Sunderland away at Roker Park in a Fourth Round replay, a remarkable victory, and I suspect some of us at Liverpool rather expected them to be suffering from tiredness.

They showed no sign of it for the first half-hour, however, battling hard and creating several goal-chances. The best came ten minutes after the start when a corner from Leighton James was headed down around the penalty-spot by another Burnley player to their Peter Noble.

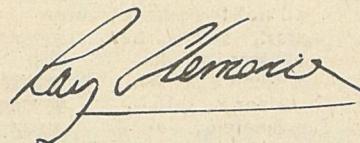
Peter deflected it, and it seemed to be going wide until it struck another of his team-mates, Jim Thomson, who had positioned himself in the six-yard box for nuisance value.

The ball struck Jim on the shoulder, lifted high and looked destined for a top corner of our goal.

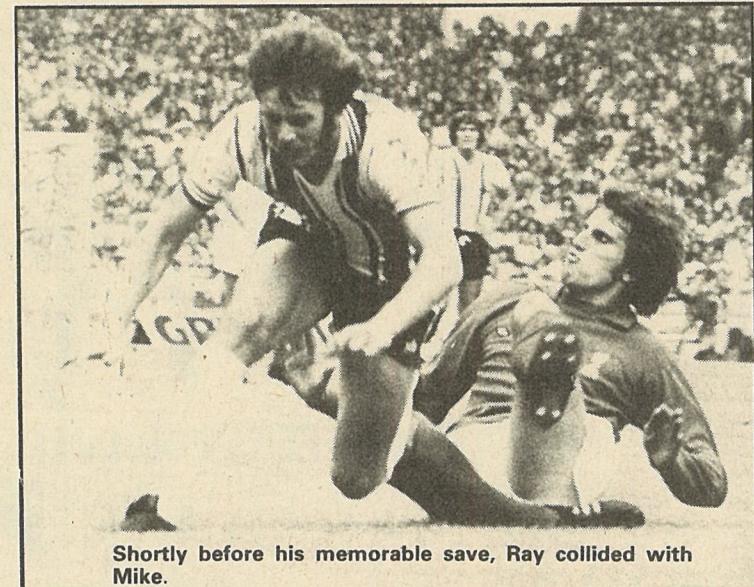
It must have been two feet behind me when I got a hand to it and sent it over the bar.

Burnley faded in the second-half — as their efforts in eliminating Sunderland took their toll — and we ran out winners by 3-0.

Recalling these saves of mine leads me to suggest it's about time the TV companies considered instituting a "Save of the Month" competition. Why should the goalgetters grab all the glory!



'Save five — from Mike Channon in the Charity Shield'



Shortly before his memorable save, Ray collided with Mike.

SHORT PASSES

● Before joining Liverpool, Kenny Dalglish scored 112 goals in 204 Scottish League games for Celtic.
(BRENDAN CONWAY, Eire)

● Leeds have had four managers since Don Revie resigned in July, 1974 — Brian Clough, Jimmy Armfield, Jock Stein, and now Jimmy Adamson.
(PAUL JEROME, Swindon)

● Oxford's record League win is 7-1 (v. Barrow; Div Four; 19th December, 1964).
(ANDREW COOKE, Oxford)

● Greaves (two), White, and Dyson (two) scored in Spurs' 5-1 win over Atletico Madrid in the 1963 Cup-Winners' Cup Final.
(PATRICK CHADWICK, Sussex)

● Old Trafford's record gate is 76,962 (Wolves v. Grimsby; F.A. Cup Semi-Final; 25th March, 1939). For a Manchester United game it's 70,504 (v. Aston Villa; Div One; 27th December, 1920).
(S. F. CLAYTON, Abingdon)

● Manchester City's record League win is 11-3 (v. Lincoln; Div Two; 23rd March, 1895).
(DAVID NATH, Lincoln)

● George Goddard (172 League goals between 1926 and 1934) is Q.P.R.'s record aggregate scorer.
(IAN SARGEANT, Northolt)

● Wembley's first F.A. Cup Final was in 1923 (Bolton 2, West Ham 0); its first League Cup Final was in 1967 (West Bromwich 2, Q.P.R. 3).
(LEIGH GRIFFITHS, Swansea)

● No player can be offside if he is in his own half of the field at the moment the ball is played.
(CHRISTY KINNAIRD, Belfast)

● U.E.F.A. stands for Union of European Football Associations. F.I.F.A. for Federation of International Football Associations.
(GARY LEE, Stockport)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

'thought I'd give you some work to do!"

Save six was from another penalty kick — this time in a Liverpool v. Spurs League game at Anfield in September, 1976. Tommy Smith had tripped Steve Perryman, and Keith Osgood — now with Coventry — was designated to take the kick.

My left-back Phil Neal came up to me and, in an attempt to mislead Keith into thinking he was giving me advice on Keith's technique, whispered in my ear.

But all he actually said was: "Don't worry, Ray, he'll miss it anyway!"

Certainly Phil's kidology didn't appear to work, for Keith hit the ball fiercely and true to a far corner of the net.

Luckily I had guessed right, for I was able to fist the ball clear.

What gave me a special thrill was that watching from the other end was Pat Jennings, now with Arsenal, who had actually performed the incredible feat of saving two penalties on our ground in the same match in 1973.

Keith confessed it was the first time he had failed to convert a penalty.

Save number seven was seen — and I hope enjoyed — by millions of people. For it took place on a fantastic night in Rome that is etched

Leeds (1946-47) and Blackburn (1965-66), Peter.

Each lost 30 of their 42 games — and, as you may well guess, both finished-up well-and-truly bottom of the table.

Double for W.B.A.?

Have West Bromwich ever gained the League and F.A. Cup "Double"?

DEAN WALTON, BIRMINGHAM

● No, Dean, only four clubs — Preston (1888-89), Villa (1896-97), Spurs (1960-61), and Arsenal (1970-71) — have managed that. What West Bromwich did do was to gain promotion to the First Division, and also win the F.A. Cup, in the same season of 1930-31.

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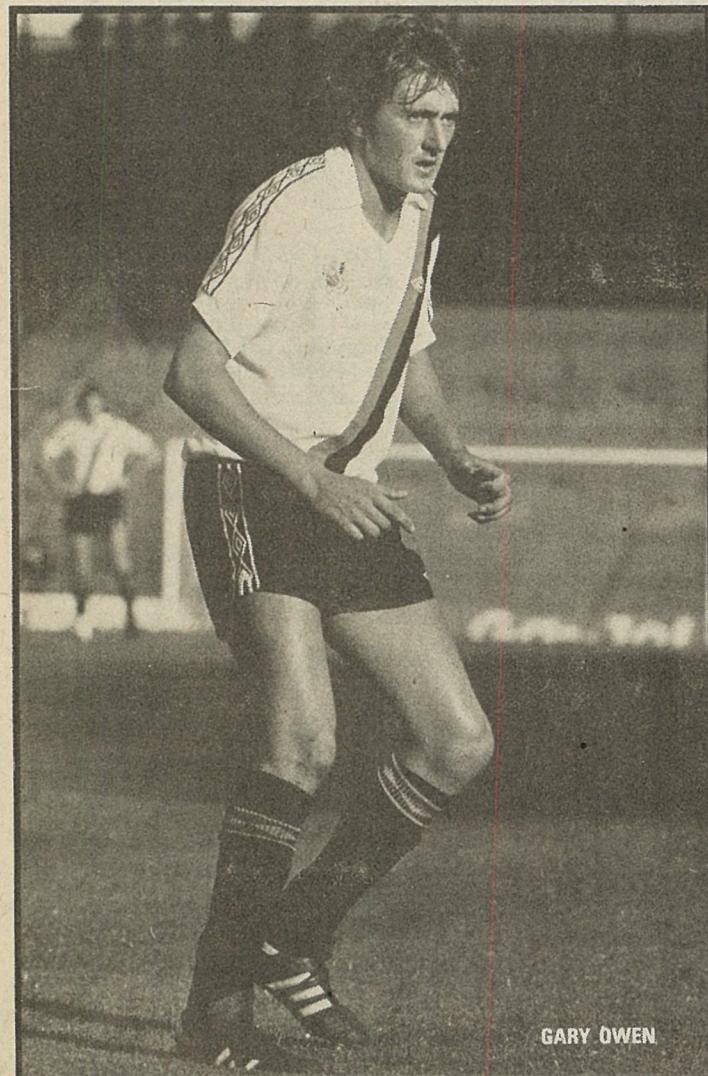
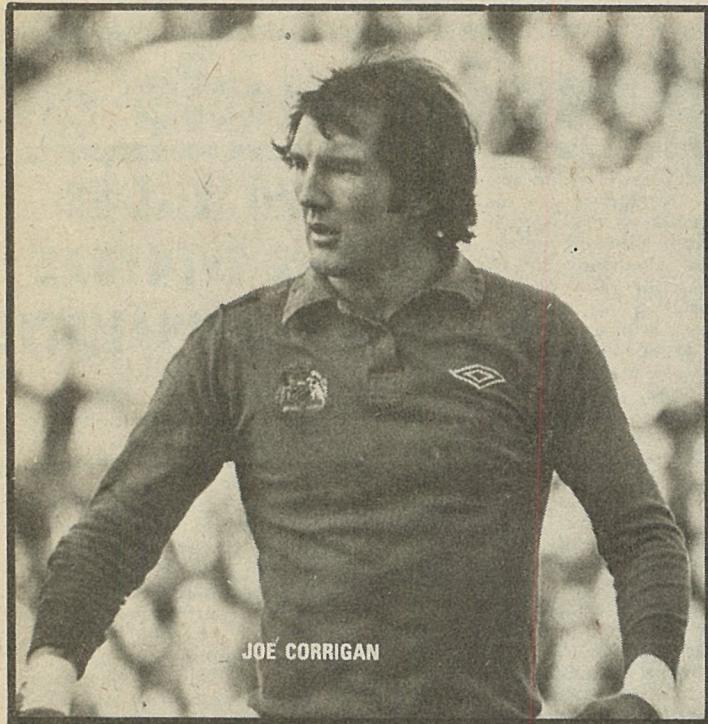
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Previews of the Semi-Finals of

EUROPEAN CUP

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v
COLOGNE

MALMO v
AUSTRIA VIENNA

'FLOHE IS THE DANGER TO FOREST'
says Kevin Keegan

F I WAS disappointed with the draw, for like everyone else at Hamburger SV, I regard Forest as by far the strongest of the four and look forward to seeing them in the Final.

The Final itself will now be a formality. Whichever team wins the Forest/Cologne Semi-Final is certain to carry off the European Cup.

Forest could be at a disadvantage, being drawn at home in the first-leg. I know from personal experience how much teams prefer playing away. In the second-leg



at home you can open up and, cheered on by your own crowd, often get the result you need.

The teams of Brian Clough and Hennes Weisweiler are very evenly matched. In fact, Cologne have more elements of the English play than any other West German side; crosses from the wings to Dieter Müller — who scored in both legs against Rangers — and one-two's, especially in midfield.

Where they differ is in having a play maker, who does exactly that, dictating the game. As the hub of the team, everything revolves around him.

His name is Heinz Flohe, and he is assisted by Herbert Neumann, a blond lad who is an international. Cologne supply around five of the

present West German squad.

Two foreigners are especially dangerous — the Belgian Roger Van Gool, who played for Bruges against Liverpool in the 1976 U.E.F.A. Cup Final and scored in the first-leg at Anfield. And a Japanese winger named Okudera, voted Japanese Player of the Year two years ago before being bought by Cologne.

Okudera did not play against Rangers, but is now back in the side. He was instrumental in helping Cologne win the Bundesliga last season. Their goalkeeper Harald Schumacher is playing so well he was recently called up to replace Sepp Maier in an international.

Cologne are concentrating 100 per cent on winning the European Cup, as they have no chance of winning the League, being placed sixth in the table at the moment.

Among the favourites are my team Hamburger, so with a bit of luck we'll be fighting for the European Cup next season.

Patriotism urges me to back Forest, but as I've said before, the two teams are so evenly matched I cannot make an objective prediction.

One thing that has surprised me about the European competitions is that five West German sides remain at this stage. The three in the U.E.F.A. Semis — Borussia Mönchengladbach, Hertha Berlin, and MSV Duisburg — are respectively in ninth, tenth, and a relegation spot around the bottom of the 18-strong Division.

It's generally admitted here West German football has declined, so where does that place the rest of Europe?

Forest, were a marvellous advert for the English game in their highly-entertaining 3-2 League Cup triumph, and I hope they can carry on the good work by capturing the European Cup and creating yet another unique double.

WHO WILL BE THE EVENTUAL BEATEN FINALISTS?

It is confidently expected either Malmö or Austria Vienna will be soundly beaten in the Final. Perhaps it's true that few underdogs have come out on top in European Cup Finals, yet Malmö's English manager, former Ipswich coach Bobby Houghton, is quietly confident.

"I bet Brian Clough would have loved us. Now perhaps we'll meet in the Final," he said after the Semi-Finals draw.

"It's strange, as an Englishman I'd like to see Forest win the European Cup. The way they play is a credit to football. If we play them in Munich, my view will change somewhat!

"Malmö are a good team and we've done well considering the Quarter-Finals were played before our season started. The spirit is excellent and we have some experienced players in the side, vital at this stage."

The Austrians supplied the nucleus of their World Cup team, but can't really be rated a European force.

Perhaps Houghton will help Malmö to become the first-ever Swedish club to play in a European Cup Final, but this Semi-Final will surely supply only the eventual beaten Finalists.

FAR LEFT . . . Heinz Flohe (light strip) in action for F.C. Cologne, who meet Nottingham Forest in the Semi-Finals. **BELOW . . .** Englishman Bob Houghton hopes to take Sweden's Malmö into the Final.



the three European competitions

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

BARCELONA v SK BEVEREN

FORTUNA DUSSELDORF v BANIK OSTRAVA

CAN DAVID BEAT GOLIATH?

THE glamour Semi-Final is undoubtedly the David and Goliath clash between the part-timers of SK Beveren and mighty Barcelona. While the highly-paid Spaniards play to crowds of 90,000 and will pick up a bonus of £1,750 if they reach the Final, the modest Belgians train after work, pick up much humbler pay-packets and are overjoyed to attract a capacity of 22,000.

Barcelona, with World Cup players such as Kranks, Neeskens, Olmo, 'Tarzan' Miguel, Asensi and Rexach in their side, must be firm favourites for a place in the Basle Final, and manager Lucien Muller is confident of building a decisive lead in the first-leg at the Nou Camp Stadium, where Barça have averaged three goals per game this season, and Europe's top scorer — Hans Kranks — has been a nightmare for visiting defences.

But Beveren are confident they can reproduce the kind of form that has shot them to the top of the Belgian League, ahead of mighty Anderlecht, and has knocked out Ballymena, Rijeka and Inter Milan in the ECWC.

The League leaders conceded only 15 goals in their first 24 League games and goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff has yet to concede a goal in 540 minutes of European football.

The Belgians are well aware Barça don't perform well away from home and their aim is to stifle



the menace from Kranks and Co. in the first-leg and then hope striker Albert, with help from their two 'imports', the Dutchman Stevens and German Albrecht can deliver the killer blow in the modest stadium near Antwerp.

As underdogs, Beveren will have a lot of public sympathy but the experience of the Spaniards may be a decisive factor.

The second Semi-Final could be a free-scoring duel between Fortuna Dusseldorf, top scorers in the Bundesliga this season, and the Czechs of Banik Ostrava, who hit 13 goals while eliminating Sporting Lisbon, Shamrock Rovers and FC Magdeburg, en route to the Semis.

The West Germans (who've eliminated Craiova, Aberdeen and Servette) are not having a sensational League campaign, yet they've done well in Europe despite some indifferent home performances. Experienced left-winger Seel is having his best-ever season and midfielder Klaus Allofs, 23, is high in the Bundesliga goal-chart and made his international debut against Malta in February.

For the Czechs, striker Lické, who tops their scoring table, could well be the trump card, while experienced internationals such as goalkeeper Michalik and defender Vojacek keep things tight at the back.

Banik manager Rubas and Fortuna's 35-year-old boss Tippenhauer are equally confident of reaching the Final in May and this is certainly a finely-balanced tie in which away goals could be vital.

Barcelona's Zuviria fails to stop Eric Gates of Ipswich. The Spanish club progressed on the away-goals rule.

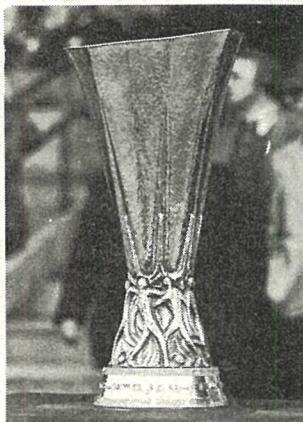


U.E.F.A CUP

MSV DUISBURG v BOR. MÖNCHENGLADBACH

RED STAR v HERTHA BERLIN

Borussia's Del Haye is on the mark against Manchester City during their Quarter-Final clash in Germany.



ALL-GERMAN FINAL?

RED Star and Borussia Mönchengladbach are the favourites to reach what could be the most attractive of all three Euro Finals. Nobody around Arsenal or West Brom needs reminding of the Yugoslavs' power, while Manchester City will testify Borussia aren't yet over the hill.

Duisburg have done remarkably well to reach this stage and could complete a unique double — winning the U.E.F.A. Cup and being relegated from the Bundesliga. As we go to press, MSV are 16th in the 18-club League, although they have games in hand.

When Borussia visited Duisburg earlier this season they won 3-0, and over the last ten years MSV have won just once at home against BMG. On the other hand, in Mönchengladbach MSV have won just once in the same period.

However, Duisburg have proved in Europe their poor League form doesn't spill over into the U.E.F.A. Cup, so it would be wrong to place too much emphasis on their domestic troubles. Even so, Borussia have the power and experience

to go all the way. Captain Allan Simonsen, set to join Barcelona next season, would love to help the club win a European trophy as a farewell. They won the U.E.F.A. Cup four years ago and while the current side isn't as strong, it could be good enough to win the Cup again.

Having eliminated two classy English sides, Red Star's tails must be up and once again they have home advantage in the first-leg, which seems to suit them.

Hertha are having an ordinary season in the Bundesliga, and have been forced to sell players to ease their financial crisis. They should get a bumper gate in the Olympic Stadium in West Berlin for the return leg, and bring some welcome cash into their coffers.

Red Star are a hard side, uncompromising, but very skilful and have outstanding players such as goalkeeper Stojanovic and captain Petrovic. Perhaps strangely, they have never won a European trophy, although they are one of the few clubs to have won at Anfield, beating Liverpool 2-1 in the 1973-74 European Cup.

Only one thing is certain: West Germany will be represented in the two-leg Final next month, but it's our guess Borussia Mönchengladbach will be meeting Red Star.

DEREK PARKIN

Wolves



SHOOT!

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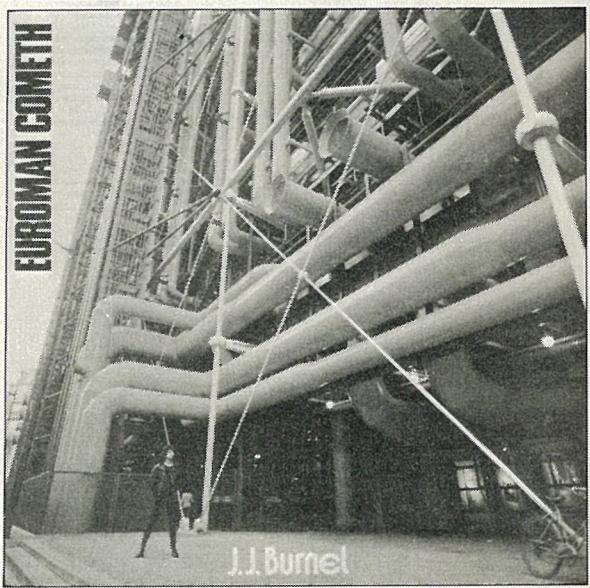
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SCOTTISH CUP SENSATIONS



Busby's goal lifts Hearts

RARELY has the Scottish Cup presented the thrill-seeking fans with more sensations than this season. The minnows have toppled the mighty, the poor have overpowered the privileged.

In four days St. Mirren's world was turned upside down with their performances against the two Dundee clubs. On the Wednesday they travelled to Tannadice Park to face Premier Division Dundee United, who were the red hot favourites.

Things went drastically wrong, though, as St. Mirren, under pressure for lengthy spells in the first-half, broke out of their defensive shell and won 2-0 with goals from Tony Fitzpatrick, their inspiring captain, and Billy Stark, their superb youngster.

On Saturday they faced First Division Dundee and everyone was expecting a repeat performance. Cup football, though, has the habit of laughing at the formbook and by half-time Tommy Gemmell's side were 3-0 ahead and on course for a Quarter-Final match against Rangers at Ibrox.

Sizzling

St. Mirren's only crumb of comfort that afternoon was by claiming the best goal of the five scored in a sizzling Cup-tie. Iain Munro's late goal was a fine effort from long range that left 'keeper Ally Donaldson helpless.

In the next round Dundee created a shock by scoring three against holders Rangers, but Ibrox manager John Greig wasn't too upset... his side rattled six past Donaldson for a convincing victory.

Greig couldn't have been that happy, though, during the matches against plucky First Division part-timers Kilmarnock in the previous round.

Kilmarnock went to Ibrox in the knowledge they had thrown up the shock of last season's Scottish Cup when they had beaten holders Celtic in a replay at Rugby Park.

Greig must have wondered if lightning was going to strike again in Glasgow against the holders as Kilmarnock held out for a 1-1 draw with a late goal from Derrick McDicken, the man who scored last season's winner against Celtic.

The replay at Rugby Park was only three minutes old when Rangers centre-half Colin Jackson and Kilmarnock's Bobby Street were ordered off! However, a goal from Billy Urquhart proved to be the winner to take Rangers through.

The Semi-Final draw might have ensured an Old Firm meeting in the Final, but Celtic were on the receiving end of yet another shock.

They drew 1-1 at Pittodrie against Aberdeen in their first Quarter-Final match. Johnny Doyle

had set them on the way with a lightning low shot, but only a minute later Joe Harper zipped through the Parkhead rearguard to lob in the equaliser to take the game to a replay at Parkhead.

For the second successive season the replay turned out to be one of dejection for Celtic, who had dominated the first match.

Two blunders from goalkeeper Peter Latchford put Aberdeen well on the way to victory although Bobby Lennox managed to hit one for the Parkhead side in the second-half. It wasn't enough, though, and Scottish fans were denied yet another thrilling shoot-out of the giants between Celtic and Rangers.

Partick Thistle knocked out Airdrie and Dumbarton this season. They were expected to notch up these victories, but they got their goals from back-four players in both games!

Colin McAdam scored twice against Airdrie and there were only five minutes to go at Boghead when Andy Anderson, a player who rarely crosses the halfway line, popped up to score with a snap header that left 'keeper Donald Hunter helpless.

Equaliser

There were strange happenings too, when Hearts met Morton in the Cup at Tynecastle. The Edinburgh men were leading with a Willie Gibson penalty-kick until five minutes from time when George Anderson knocked in the equaliser.

That wasn't the end of the action, though. Three minutes from the end there was an astonishing flare-up in the Hearts penalty-area as Morton's Bobby Thompson challenged goalkeeper Ray Dunlop.

Suddenly there was a melee with referee Brian McGinlay and a linesman trying to separate the players who had been joined by Morton's Roddie Hutchinson.

When the dust settled the referee ordered off Dunlop, Thompson and Hutchinson and all three were automatically suspended from the replay at Cappielow. It left Hearts manager Willie Ormond with a huge headache because his first team 'keeper Thomson Allan was Cup-tied while on loan to Meadowbank Thistle. With Dunlop out he had to turn to his third choice 'keeper John Brough for the crucial replay.

As so often happens in the Cup, Brough was immense and Hearts eventually won 1-0 with a headed goal from Drew Busby, who was doubtful just before the game.

Anyway, those are just some of the Scottish Cup sensations for this season. We doubt if we have seen the end of them yet!



Kilmarnock (hoops) stun the Cup-holders



Fitzpatrick opens scoring against Dundee United

ILL Shankly, soccer's favourite son, was once credited with the statement that the best footballers should be shot when they retire from the game.

On the surface, a harsh remark by the former Liverpool manager.

The thought of a hired sniper placing a speeding bullet through the heart of England's former captain Bobby Moore is repulsive.

The exercise is not worth further consideration unless offered as a programme filler for television's comedy show "Fawlty Towers".

Yet a large grain of common-sense runs through Shankly's throwaway remark. His point was once a great player has expressed his skills across the world's football frontiers for the infinite pleasure of millions on the terraces, nothing the player accomplishes in well-earned retirement can match what went before.

One of the saddest sights is the ex-pro, once trained to physical perfection, turned old soak, propping up a bar with a bottomless spirit bottle in one hand and a horde of hangers-on ingratiating themselves at his elbow. Not a pretty sight.

Borrowing Shankly's analogy again, Jimmy Greaves is one star who should possibly have been killed off the moment he discarded his boots for the last time at League level with West Ham in 1970-71.

Perhaps it would have spared us from his book, published last month entitled "This One's On Me", in which Greaves describes in graphic detail his decline and fall at the end of a raised vodka bottle.

Only money saved him from sinking to the twilight world of a tramp's life on London's Embankment, he claims.

No one doubts the sincerity of his words or his belief that in writing about his problem he might save others from treading the same path to oblivion, but those football followers who remember his quicksilver running, feline movement and close control in crowded penalty-areas, and almost cruel capacity for finishing, will not want to dwell on such morbid reading.

Jimmy Greaves played 57 times for England between 1959 and 1967. His goal tally was 44, second only to Bobby Charlton, who scored only five goals more than

Scoring in spectacular style for Chelsea against Preston.



Greaves in 106 England appearances.

He was the "Dixie" Dean and Tommy Lawton of his era. Some would argue his finishing was deadlier than his predecessors, often against more sophisticated defences.

SHOOT prefers to skip the first 90 pages of Greaves' book, which catalogue his drink problem, to concentrate on the thing Jimmy did best - scoring goals.

He made his debut, at 17, for Chelsea against Spurs at White Hart Lane on August 25, 1957. Desmond Hackett, football correspondent of the Daily Express, reported the event as follows: "Jimmy Greaves gave the greatest



In his early days with Chelsea.



Greaves' first goal for Spurs against Blackpool at White Hart Lane.

show I have ever seen from a young player on his League debut."

He sent the Press box at Stamford Bridge into raptures on his England Under-23 debut in September, 1957. Jim Gaughan, of the old Star evening paper, wrote: "There has been nothing quite like this from an England pair since the great days of Raich Carter and Wilf Mannion. Greaves, making his Under-23 debut, scored twice and missed a penalty during an eventful first match in which England crushed Bulgaria 6-2."

THE GOALDEN JIMMY

Preston still talk about the day Jimmy Greaves beat them on his own in December, 1959. Preston scored four goals at Deepdale, Chelsea scored five, and Greaves got them all!

He became the youngest player, at 20, to total 100 League goals and played a crucial three-goal part in England's 9-3 humiliation of Scotland at Wembley in 1961.

It was a sad day for the "Shed" end when Greaves lined-up for his last game for Chelsea against Nottingham Forest on April 28, 1961.

Greaves responded with all four goals in Chelsea's 4-3 victory. The fans spilled on to the pitch at the end to chair their "Pied Piper" after a four year career at the Bridge.

Greaves was transferred to A.C. Milan after that match but was back in England at the spearhead of Tottenham's attack eight months later. He scored on his debut for the Italian club before 50,000 fans at the San Siro stadium, thus maintaining his record of scoring in all his most important games.

Greaves was unhappy in Italy and Chelsea tried to buy him back for £90,000, £10,000 more than they sold him for, but the England goal-poacher chose Tottenham.

His debut for Spurs under manager Bill Nicholson was vintage Greaves. He played his first game for them against Blackpool at White Hart Lane — and celebrated with a hat-trick. One goal was sheer magic.

Tottenham's long throw expert Dave Mackay looped a ball from the touchline to Terry Medwin. The little winger flicked the ball on

to Greaves, and with his back to goal, he produced a Denis Law style overhead scissors kick to score.

He scored the first of Tottenham's three goals in their victory over Burnley in the 1962 F.A. Cup Final. It came after just three minutes. One columnist wrote: "How he got that goal still mystifies me. A hefty clearance from goalkeeper Bill Brown was nodded down perfectly by Bobby Smith to the galloping feet of Greaves. He charged on to goal but lost control through the momentum of his

own pace. Then, wheeling to the left, he blasted the ball along the ground past five thunderstruck defenders."

Greaves takes issue with that description of his shot. "I was never a blaster of the ball. It was rolled. I couldn't burst a paper bag from a range of more than 15 yards," he said grinning.

Earlier, in the Wembley dressing-room, he had pledged to score within five minutes of the start. Only a player with a strong belief in himself would make such an extravagant prediction from the inner sanctum of a Wembley dressing-room.

The sweat of that Cup Final had hardly dried on his brow than he was in Peru with England for a warm-up game en route to the World Cup Finals in Chile in 1962. He scored a first-half hat-trick, the first of Bobby Moore's 108 appearances for England, but Walter Winterbottom's side made little impact on that Cup, going out in the Quarter-Finals to Brazil.



Jimmy's "rolled" Cup Final goal against Burnley in 1962.



The Observer's football writer Tony Pawson felt disposed to describe the performance Greaves gave for Spurs against West Ham in the 1962-63 season as the finest performance he had seen from an English inside-forward.

"His dribbling had a magical unreality as the impossible was made to appear easy."

A goal he scored for Spurs against Leicester that season illustrates the magic Greaves could conjure from nothing. A November sun was beaming down on White Hart Lane when Greaves killed the

ball in midfield. He swayed, dribbled past four startled defenders, drew goalkeeper Gordon Banks from his line and swerved effortlessly round him to score. Fifty-two thousand spectators to a man, including rival fans, applauded.

Greaves missed three months of the 1965-66 season suffering from hepatitis but returned to League action in typical fashion with a goal in Spurs' 4-0 defeat of Blackburn.

He admits it took him nearly a

YEARS OF GREAVES

year to recover from the illness and fought a desperate battle to get fit for England's World Cup campaign in 1966.

The goals started to flow again from him on England's international tour to Scandinavia as a part of a warm-up for the Finals back home.

Sadly, it heralded the most disappointing period of Greaves' football life.

Alf Ramsey, England's manager, dealt him a sickening blow by leaving him out of the World Cup Final team that triumphed over West Germany.

"My scrapbooks are remarkably empty of any reference to the Finals. Let's face it, I didn't achieve anything worth writing about."

His goalscoring talents were never recognised fully by Ramsey. The England boss considered him something of a luxury, preferring strikers with a greater work-rate. Greaves won the last of his 57 caps against Austria in Vienna in 1967.

But he continued to score goals at League level, celebrating his

100th League goal

He scored his 100th League goal

in his last season at Upton Park.

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'I'll score goals in the First Division'

Paul Randall (Stoke)

I'D been scoring goals for Bristol Rovers and I suppose if you do that, you start to think about the First Division and whether you'd like the chance to play there. But I was still surprised when the transfer chance came. It was a big shock, especially when I discovered Stoke wanted me.

The offer was good and I accepted and was glad I did. I think we're excellent bets to go up this season and then I'll have achieved my wish of playing in the First Division.

Stoke have a superb set-up in terms of their side. They've got the experience you need in players like Howard Kendall, Denis Smith, Mike Doyle and Roger Jones but they've also got good young players around like Sammy Irvine, Garth Crooks — and myself and many others. That's a good balance and with it is a great manager in Alan Durban.

He knows just what he wants from the players and as he only recently

stopped playing himself, he's really up to date with his views and methods. He's honest, straight and fair and you can't ask for more than that.

I've got confidence in my own ability. Alan Durban said he wanted 13 goals from me before the end of the season, so I'll have to go a bit to achieve that. But I believe I can score goals for Stoke if we reach the First Division.

I've settled down very well here and I'm pleased I went to the Victoria Ground. A good move for me and I think the future is very promising.

It's been an exciting race for promotion in Division Two this season. We have been at or around the top from the word 'go' and our experience has helped us while one or two of our rivals have faltered.

Until we're definitely there I'm taking nothing for granted, but everyone at Stoke is confident about this season ... and next.

THE NEWCOMERS

Four players talk about their recent moves

'I've no worries here'

Steve Sims (Watford)

ONE of the main reasons I joined Watford was to team-up again with manager Graham Taylor. I knew him from a few years ago when I was a schoolboy and he was manager at Lincoln, my home town. He tried to sign me then and although that didn't come off, I always kept in touch with what he was doing after that.

I've been very impressed with the set-up at Watford. It's not only Graham's influence. This club has one of the best backroom staffs anywhere in the country. Eddie Plumley, Bertie

Mee, Elton John (a lively, up-to-date chairman) ... they all make an excellent team.

I was disappointed when the deal fell through between myself and Derby County. I was worried no one would want to sign me even though I knew the specialist was wrong and there was nothing the matter with my knee.

But when Watford wanted me, I can honestly say I was less worried about dropping into the Third Division than signing for Derby County in Division One.

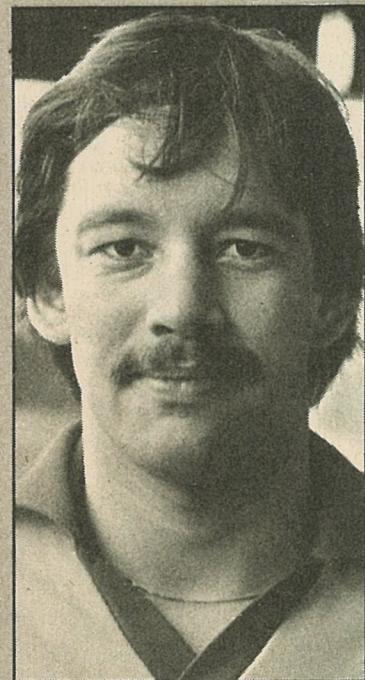
I'm delighted I made the move. In the last 18 months or so at Leicester, I found I wasn't getting the tuition and attention I needed to improve my game. I didn't think Leicester were going anywhere either as a club. But here, it's been totally different. Graham has taught me a lot already and as for Watford's future it can only be bright.

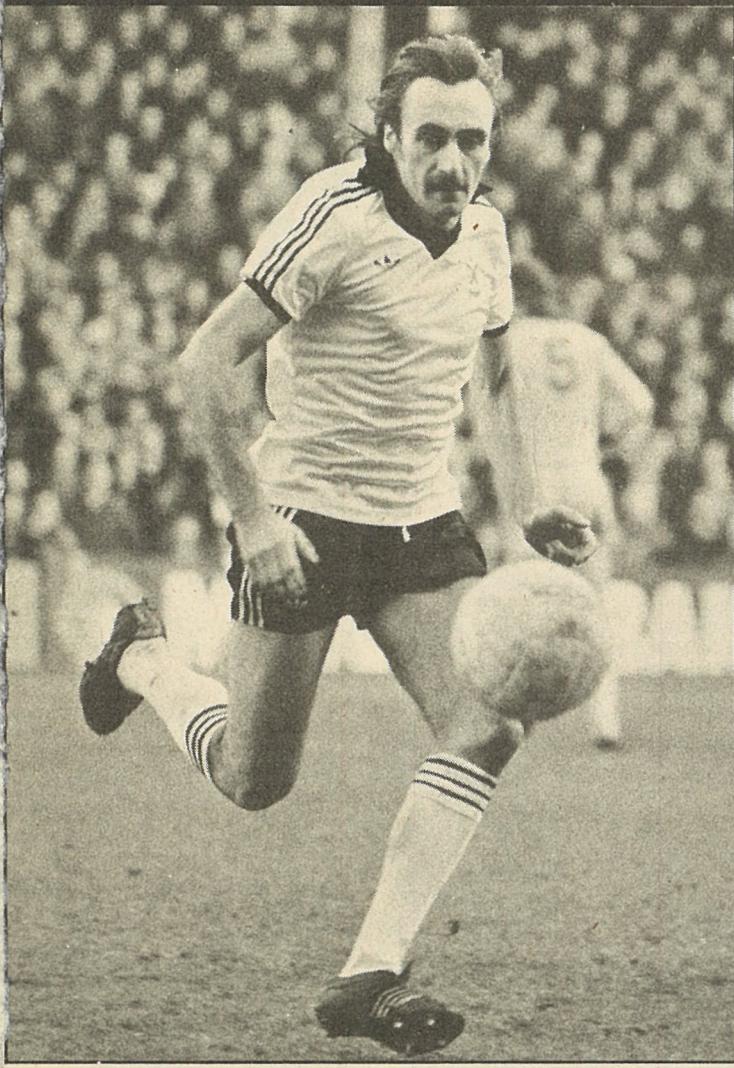
I found it a little difficult to adapt at first to the Third Division. There's less time to play here and you've got to make snap decisions or else you get caught with the ball. But I've begun to adjust my game to it and I feel I'm settling in now.

I had no worries about joining this club. The future for Watford should be outstanding and I'm hoping I'll be a part of it for many years.

It was frustrating not being able to play in our great League Cup run, as I was Cup-tied, but simply being part of the club has restored all my appetite for football.

Watford are aiming for more than Division Two and I honestly believe we can develop into a club capable of standing alongside the best in Division One.





'Orient were too defensive'

Peter Kitchen (Fulham)

I'D been available for transfer for some time and was anxious to leave Orient. When I finally did, it was like lifting a great weight of worry off my mind — I was delighted to join Fulham.

I must admit I had hoped for a First Division club. I felt I'd shown what I was capable of last season when I scored over 20 goals and helped Orient into the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals. But the First Division clubs had plenty of chance to come in for me so when they didn't, I had to admit reality.

After a Division One side, the next thing I wanted was a club that were going to get there in the near future. That's why I joined Fulham because I believe they're heading for the top — if not this term, certainly next season or the one after.

The whole outlook is different at Craven Cottage compared with Brisbane Road. I'm really convinced Fulham want to go places and do so by attacking play. I'm not convinced Orient wanted that.

I felt the system was too defensive at Orient. There were too many defenders in the side, too much caution. Jimmy Bloomfield succeeded with that plan in the Cup, so maybe he was right, I don't know.

But it didn't suit me. I wanted to see us play attacking football and do well and when I realised it wasn't going to happen, I decided it would be best to leave. The departures of Phil Hoadley to Norwich and Glenn Roeder to Q.P.R. also convinced me it would be better to go.

I'm not anti-Orient, though, very far from it. I hope they do well but for me at that time, I felt I had to have a move. But even so, I wouldn't have joined many Second Division clubs. Fulham were one of the few.

The fact they paid out £150,000 and really scraped the barrel to do so, proved how determined they are to do well and reach the First Division. Now, I aim to repay that faith by scoring as many goals as I possibly can. It's a big challenge to me and everyone at Fulham — we're all heading for just one place ... the First Division.

I'm slowly but surely building up a good understanding with Chris Guthrie. Coming into a side mid-way through the season isn't easy, but next season Fulham fans should see the best of Chris and I with, hopefully, regular goals from both of us. Manager Bobby Campbell insists on attacking soccer, which as a striker suits me.

'We're on the up, up, up . . .'

Kevin Hird (Leeds)

I was surprised it was me who finally got the transfer. I always reckoned co-defender John Bailey would move before me. Although he had a great spell of form last season, he hasn't been so effective this season. But I always thought he would leave before me, especially when all the papers started talking about who would be signing us.

I was amazed when Leeds came in for me. They started bidding at £250,000 but had that turned down. They then offered another £100,000 which seemed amazing.

But I'll be trying to thrust the thought of that huge fee to the back of my mind. I've been ever so impressed with Leeds. It's a great club with marvellous facilities. There are top class quality players throughout the side and I can only see us going one way — up, up, up.

I don't think I'll have to change my style at all. Jimmy Adamson has said he wants to see me attacking and getting forward as much as possible. I love doing that although I think it's fair to criticise me for getting TOO far forward at times in the past.

Blackburn's problem this season has sometimes been that John Bailey and myself have been caught out

upfield in attacks. But that's not the reason Blackburn struggled — we just couldn't score goals this season.

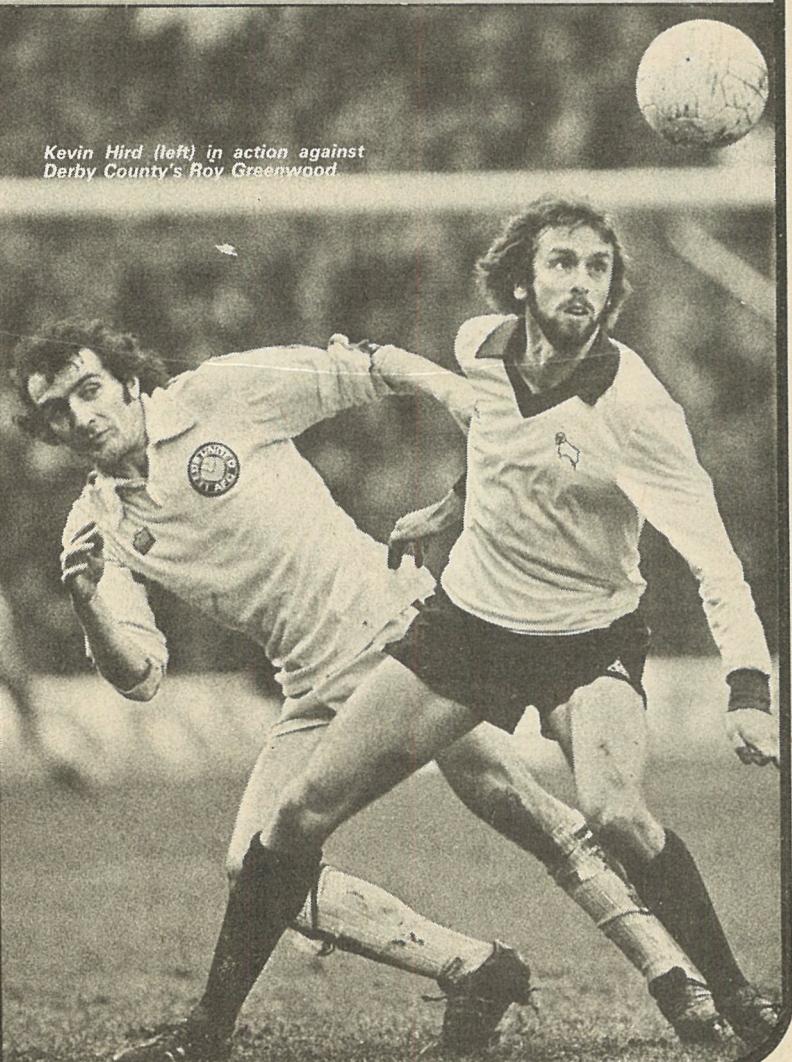
I think I enjoy attacking so much because I used to be a winger. Then Jim Smith moved me to midfield and finally to full-back and that's where I have settled. But I always love the opportunity to get forward and help create goals.

The organisation of Leeds is very good. The whole club is impressive throughout and I'm convinced I've joined a marvellous club. I thought I'd be off to Everton or Manchester City because those were two of the clubs mentioned. But I wouldn't have wanted to go there and I rejected Everton.

Leeds is much the better set-up and I'm really excited by the thought of settling down here. I haven't any worries about the First Division. The game is faster here, but I'm sure I'll get used to that.

It helps playing alongside experienced players such as Paul Madeley and Trevor Cherry. I'm sure I can learn a lot from them and, indeed, just playing for a club like Leeds must bring on my game. I aim to make the most of the chance I've been given.

Kevin Hird (left) in action against Derby County's Roy Greenwood



'No Liverpool'



ABOVE . . . "With America-bound Clive Walker."

RIGHT . . . "Tony Woodcock (dark shirt) is back to his best."



ALTHOUGH Liverpool are reigning European Champions and are on target for the Championship yet again this season only Kenny Dalglish from Anfield was in the P.F.A. First Division team.

In fact, in my own selection, not one Liverpool player figured; yet, as I wrote in my column recently, I'm a Reds fan.

So why is it that the side admired by every professional has so few individual successes? I believe it is simply because Liverpool are admired as a team. I use their discipline as a yardstick for Chelsea.

I suppose it is a back-handed compliment, but because the Merseysiders are such a good team their players rarely stand out individually. You can bet on eight or nine Liverpool players playing well in any one game, so fans don't come away raving about any particular player.

I reckon that most other teams rely on four or five players having outstanding games, but the standards at Anfield are higher.

Only Kenny Dalglish, perhaps, catches the eye regularly, but it is strange that our most successful club should be ignored when it comes to All Star teams.

Someone like Osvaldo Ardiles, who has had a fine season, has stood out . . . but would he stand out as much if he were a Liverpool star? As I said, The Reds rely on teamwork and the combined effort of all their players. It isn't a snub when players don't choose Anfield players in their best XI's, because I've yet to meet a pro who doesn't have the utmost admiration for Liverpool.

Injury

I've received quite a few letters on that subject, so I hope this clears the matter up.

David Freeman, of Epsom, has written regarding the injury to Chelsea's goalkeeper Petar Borota at Norwich the other week. He wants to know if I'm in favour of having a substitute goalkeeper.

I was talking about this with manager Danny Blanchflower and like him, I feel it would be interesting to see five subs available at League games as there are in European ties.

We're fortunate at Chelsea, because striker Tommy Langley is such a good stand-in goalkeeper. In fairness, it is very rare, thankfully, that a 'keeper is injured, but it

would give managers more variation if five substitutes were available every week. The problem is that there would be more players without a game, but at the same time an experiment could prove helpful.

Referees rightly give goalkeepers a lot of protection these days. Gone is the era of the Nat Lofthouse shoulder charge! Mind you, I saw the Spurs/Manchester United F.A. Cup-tie on T.V. and the referee awarded a foul when Gary Bailey dropped the ball. He certainly didn't appear to be fouled by Chris Jones and Spurs were unfortunate. However, against Q.P.R. Petar Borota was squashed between two Rangers players. The ball ran for a goal-kick, but I asked the ref if he would have blown for a foul and he replied "no". Some you win, some you lose.

Two Chelsea players, Garry Stanley and Clive Walker, are going on loan to the Fort Lauderdale Strikers this summer, and Philip Page, who lives in Reading, wants to know if I would like a summer in the United States.

Not really, because at the end of the season I feel I need a few weeks'

snub'

RAY WILKINS
Writes for you

rest otherwise I could become stale. Maybe later in my career, but anyway the club wouldn't allow me to go so the question is hypothetical. I must be honest and say that if I could go, the chance to earn a few dollars more would be very tempting.

David Stride was with Memphis Rogues last year and the experience did him the world of good. He returned far more confident and he's established himself in the Chelsea team.

This is a good example of a young player feeling the benefit of a working summer, but I don't think Chelsea are too keen on their players going to America.

A lot of Chelsea fans have written to me asking what went wrong with Duncan McKenzie at Stamford Bridge. It's a shame it didn't work out, because I still believe Duncan has bags of skill and ability. I think the problem was that we needed to adapt Duncan's game to our needs and his style is so difficult to change. We needed Duncan to sacrifice everything for hard work as we fought against relegation, and

although he never gave less than 100 per cent, Duncan's football isn't suited to battling against the odds. I like Duncan as a person. He's a nice guy and I wish him every success at Blackburn.

Last letter, from James Chapman of Potters Bar, and James wants to know who I considered the greatest goalscorer — Jimmy Greaves or Denis Law? This was a major talking point during the Sixties.

While Denis was the more spectacular, I'd have to give my vote to Jimmy, who was a goals machine with more than 350 goals in 516 League appearances for Chelsea, Tottenham and West Ham. Denis was better in the air and used to specialise in the overhead or scissors kicks. Jimmy could — and did — dribble round two, three, sometimes four, defenders to plant the ball in the back of the net. I wouldn't have minded either in my team, though!

This Saturday (April 7) we play Nottingham Forest at Stamford Bridge, which should guarantee a 30,000-plus gate. We have quite a good record against Forest and beat



them in the corresponding game last season, thanks to a Trevor Aylott goal.

Having said that, we know just how hard it will be on Saturday. Forest seem to have found something like their best form after a spell when they weren't really putting it together. With their League Cup Final victory and European success in recent weeks Forest are looking more like their real selves.

You can't talk about Forest without mentioning Trevor Francis, who played his last game for Birmingham City at Chelsea in January. Then, he played just behind the front-runners, but his arrival at the City Ground has led to all sort of speculation as to who drops out.

From what I've seen on television recently, I cannot foresee either

'Liverpool's successes have been due to their team-effort.'

Garry Birtles or Tony Woodcock being dropped. Garry looks so fast and unorthodox and his finishing is deadly. Tony seems back to the form that won him full England honours last season after a disappointing time earlier this term.

With or without Trevor, Forest are a fine side and I think they'll win the European Cup.

Join me again in two weeks,

Farquhar ⚡

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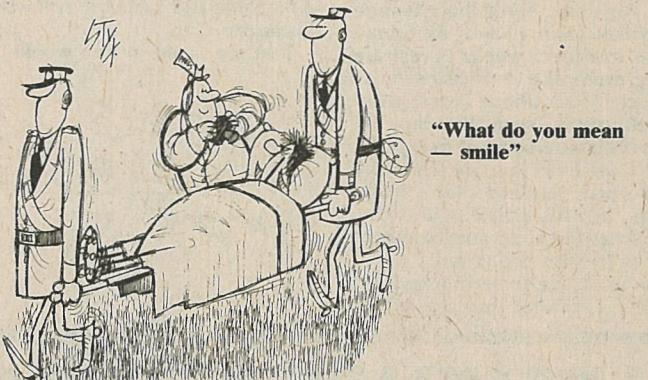
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45p

FOOTBALL MUNNIES



This week Celtic's recent signing MURDO MacLEOD, with a little help from baby daughter Gilan, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



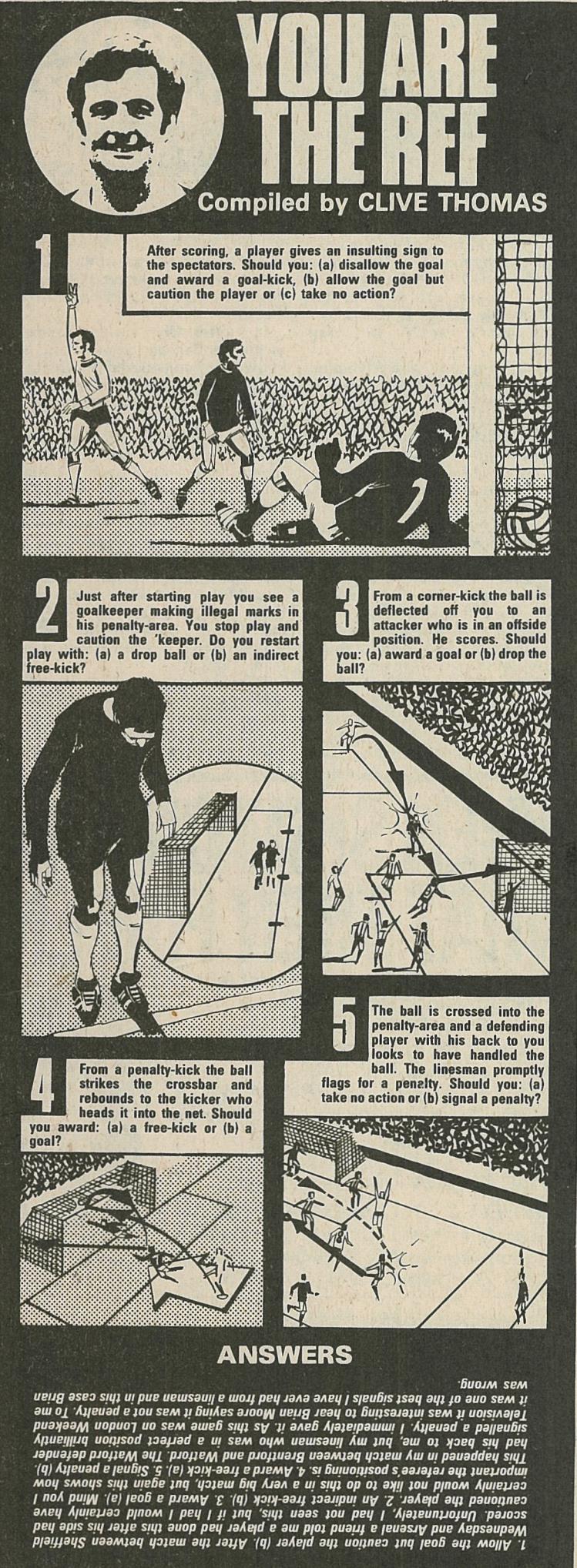
**“What do you mean
— smile”**



"There's a guy outside who has called about your advert for an experienced scout, boss"



"I've got an idea how we might avoid relegation — phone Brian Clough and see if he'll loan us Peter Shilton and Trevor Francis".



ANSWERS

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

BOLTON

A founder member of the Football League

IT IS amazing how many of our Football League clubs started life as a church team.

Bolton Wanderers are no exception to the rule, being formed by members of Christ Church Sunday School at Turton, a village side.

Which member of the team upset the vicar is not known, but the team were forced to move and in 1877 became Bolton Wanderers.

In the 1881-82 season they entered the F.A. Cup for the first time and were beaten by Blackburn Rovers 6-2 in the Second Round, Rovers going on to reach the Final that year.

Bolton were one of the founder members of the Football League and finished fifth in its first season.

The club reached the Final of the F.A. Cup for the first time in 1894, but were well beaten by Notts County 4-1.

The last season of the 19th century (1898-99) saw Wanderers relegated. It took the club only one term to return to the top Division, but it was a short stay. Three seasons later Bolton were relegated again after losing 23 of their 34 League games.

Yet as a Second Division club the following season, Wanderers reached the Final of the F.A. Cup. This time a goal by the great Billy Meredith saw Manchester City win 1-0.

In the 1904-05 season Bolton won promotion for a further three-year stay in the First Division.

The following three years saw a new meaning for the nickname of "The Trotters" for the club.

Relegated in 1908, promoted in 1909, relegated in 1910 and promoted in 1911. The people of Bolton knew all about "The wind of change" way before Edward Heath!

Now the Bolton supporters were to watch 18 seasons of unbroken First Division football.

Every football fan knows that Bolton were the first-ever winners of an F.A. Cup Final at Wembley. That famous victory coming in 1923.

Three years later in 1926 they returned and this time gained revenge for an earlier Final defeat



Peter Reid

by Man. City when a goal by David Jack saw Bolton win 1-0.

Another three years were to pass before Bolton were back at Wembley again and this time they beat Portsmouth 2-0.

Five Bolton players played in all three winning Finals. Goalkeeper Pym and Haworth, Seddon, Nuttall and Butler.

The end of the 1932-33 season

ROLL OF HONOUR

Second Division Championship: 1908-09, 1977-78.
Third Division Championship: 1972-73.
F.A. Cup Winners: 1923, 1926, 1929, 1958.

TOP LEAGUE SCORERS

1973-74	John Byrom	18
1974-75	Hugh Curran	11
1975-76	Garry Jones and Neil Whatmore	11
1976-77	Neil Whatmore	25
1977-78	Neil Whatmore	19

Bolton were relegated. They finished third in their first season back in Division Two, but the following campaign in 1934-35 Bolton finished runners-up to Brentford and were promoted.

Now, the Wanderers were to enjoy their longest ever stay in Division One, 22 seasons, and two more appearances at Wembley.

Bolton had the distinction of not only appearing in the first-ever Final at Wembley, but also appeared in another famous Final, in 1953, immortalised as the "Matthew's Final". Blackpool won 4-3 with the winner coming in the closing seconds of the game. But the record books may well have told a different story if Bolton had not had Bell injured.

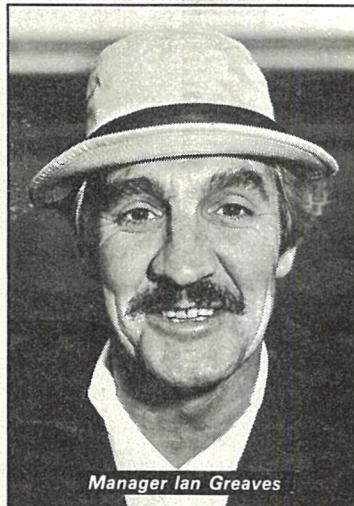
Bolton even led 3-1 at one stage, with the injured Bell scoring, but Matthews started his magic on the right-wing and it was curtains for brave Bolton.

In 1958 the club were back again and never before has a nation so much wanted their opponents to win. Manchester United, patched up by acting manager Jimmy Murphy, after the tragic air crash at Munich, had against all the odds reached the Final.

Two goals by England striker Nat Lofthouse won Bolton the Cup for the fourth time and United's brave season was at an end.

Although the Burnden Park club finished fourth the following season, the side were relegated in 1964. They nearly made it back at the first attempt, but finished third and in 1971 found themselves in the Third Division.

Two seasons later (1972-73) they won the Third Championship, but it took five more years to win a place back in the First Division.

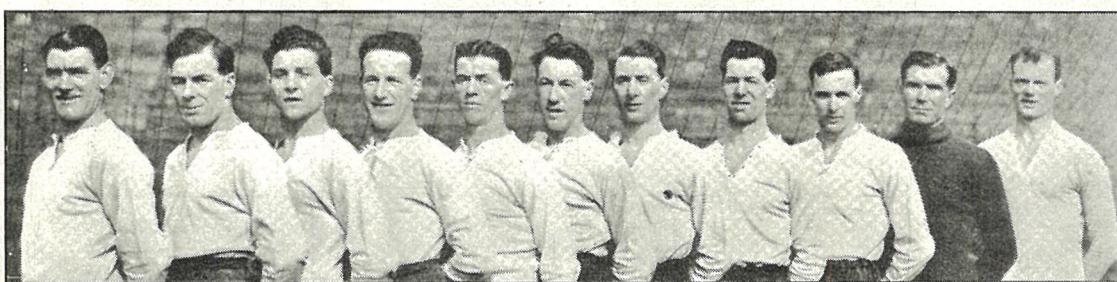


Manager Ian Greaves

LEAGUE FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	Results	Venue
Aug 19	Bristol C	1-2	H
22	Southampton	2-2	A
26	W.B.A.	0-4	A
Sept 2	Birmingham	2-2	H
9	Derby Co	2-1	H
16	Arsenal	0-1	A
23	Norwich C	3-2	H
30	Liverpool	0-3	A
Oct 7	Leeds U	3-1	H
14	Chelsea	3-4	A
21	Manchester City	2-2	H
28	Tottenham H	0-2	A
Nov 4	Coventry C	0-0	H
11	Bristol C	1-4	A
18	W.B.A.	0-1	H
21	Birmingham C	0-3	A
25	Notm. Forest	0-1	H
Dec 2	Q.P.R.	3-1	A
9	Wolves	3-1	H
16	Ipswich T.	0-3	A
22	Man. United	3-0	H
26	Middlesbrough	1-1	A
Feb 3	Norwich C	0-0	A
24	Chelsea	2-1	H
Mar 3	Man. City	1-2	A
7	Aston Villa	0-3	A
17	Coventry	2-2	A
21	Derby	0-3	A
24	Southampton	2-0	H
26	Arsenal	4-2	A
31	Notm. Forest		
Apr 7	Q.P.R.		H
11	Man. United		A
14	Middlesbrough		A
16	Everton		H
21	Ipswich T.		A
28	Wolves		A
May 5	Aston Villa		H
	To be arranged: Everton (H), Liverpool (H), Tottenham (H), Derby (A), Leeds (A).		

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Bolton team line up for the first ever Wembley F.A. Cup Final against West Ham United in 1923.

Continued on page 26

BACK ROW (left to right): Peter Nicholson, Alan Gowling, Mike Walsh, Paul Jones.
CENTRE ROW: Ian Greaves (team-manager), Terry Poole, Sam Allardyce, Jim
McDonagh, Frank Worthington, George Mulhall (asst. manager), Jim Headrige
(physio).
FRONT ROW: Ray Train (now Watford), Neil Whatmore, Roy Greaves, Peter Reid,
John Ritson, Tony Dunne.





CLUB SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

PEN PICTURES

(L. App:— League Appearances, G:— Goals, S:— Substitutes. All records to end of January, 1979.)
SAM ALLARDYCE: Defender who joined Bolton from school and signed professional in November, 1971. Born Dudley. Ht. 6.1½. Wt. 13.4. L. App:— 155 and 2 sub. G:— 18.

DAVID BURKE: Young defender or midfielder signed professional in August 1977. Born Liverpool. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.1. (League debut this season.)

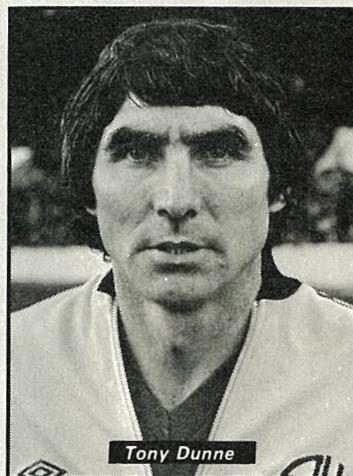
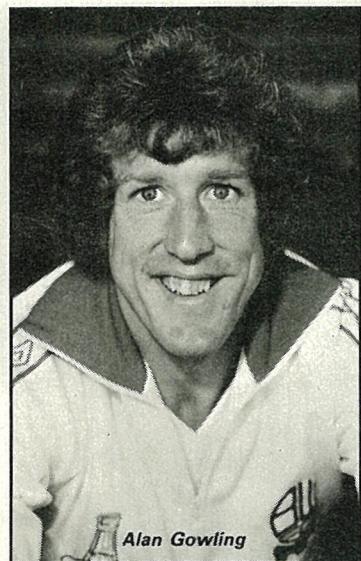
TONY DUNNE: Defender who won a European Cup winners medal with Manchester United in 1968. Signed from United in August, 1973. 32 caps for the Republic of Ireland. Born Dublin. Ht. 5.6½. Wt. 9.11. L. App:— Man Utd. 415, Bolton 152 and 4 sub. G:— Man. Utd. 2.

ALAN GOWLING: Striker signed from Newcastle for £120,000 in March, 1978. England Under-23 cap. Born Stockport. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 11.10. L. App:— Man. Utd. 64 and 7 sub, Huddersfield 128, Newcastle 91 and 1 sub, Bolton 28 and 2 sub. G:— Man. Utd. 18, Huddersfield 58, Newcastle 30, Bolton 9.

ROY GREAVES: Long-serving midfielder signed professional in January, 1965. Born Farnworth. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.12. L. App:— 447 and 6 sub. G:— 64.

PAUL JONES: Defender who has been a member of the England Under-23 and full England squads. Signed professional in June, 1970. Born Warrington. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 10.10. L. App:— 285 and 4 sub. G:— 33.

JIM McDONAGH: Goalkeeper signed for £10,000 from Rotherham in September, 1976.



Fighting to stay in the FIRST

SEVERAL seasons of near misses were ended when Bolton Wanderers finally won promotion to Division One in April, 1978. The Burden Park club did it in style by winning the Second Division Championship.

This season has seen the team fighting to hold on to their hard-won place in the top grade. Although never in real danger of relegation, Bolton are too near the bottom of the table for comfort.

One sad fact for a club that was one of the founder members of the Football League, way back in 1888, is the highest Bolton have ever finished in the First Division is third, a position they reached in 1891-1892, 1920-21 and 1924-25.

Born Rotherham. Ht. 5.11½. Wt. 13.12. L. App:— Rotherham 121, Bolton 99.

NEIL McNAB: Midfielder who cost Bolton £250,000 when signed in November, 1978 from Tottenham. Born Greenock. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 10.8. L. App:— Morton 11 and 3 sub, Tottenham 63 and 9 sub, Bolton 10. G:— Tottenham 3.

WILLIE MORGAN: Winger or midfielder signed from Burnley in March, 1976 on a free transfer. Scottish international with 21 caps. Member of Scotland's 1974 World Cup team. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 11.2. L. App:— Burnley (two spells) 195 and 1 sub, Man. Utd 236 and 2 sub, Bolton 114 and 1 sub. G:— Burnley 18, Man. Utd 23, Bolton 6.

PETER NICHOLSON: Versatile star who can operate in defence or midfield. Signed from Blackpool in June, 1971. Born Cleator Moor. Ht. 5.11½. Wt. 11.8½. L. App:— Blackpool 3 and 3 sub, Bolton 233 and 12 sub. G:— Bolton 12.

PETER REID: Midfielder who signed professional in May, 1974. England Under-21 international. Born Huyton. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 11.3. L.

App:— 160 and 3 sub. G:— 16.

BRIAN SMITH: Midfield player who signed professional after joining Bolton as a youth. Played in American soccer last season. Born Bolton. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 11.5. L. App:— Bolton 33 and 5 sub, Bradford City (Loan) 8. G:— Bolton 3.

MIKE WALSH: Defender who joined Bolton from school and signed professional in July, 1974. Born Manchester. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.7. L. App:— 77 and 8 sub. G:— 2.

NEIL WHATMORE: Striker and top scorer for Bolton in the past three seasons. Signed professional in May, 1973. Born Ellesmere Port. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.3. L. App:— 171 and 11 sub. G:— 70.

FRANK WORTHINGTON: Striker signed from Leicester City for £90,000 in October, 1977 after a loan period. At the time of going to press was joint top scorer in the First Division this season. Eight full England caps. Born Halifax. Ht. 5.10½. Wt. 11.10. L. App:— Huddersfield 166 and 5 sub, Leicester 209 and 1 sub, Bolton 56 and 1 sub. G:— Huddersfield 42, Leicester 72, Bolton 26.

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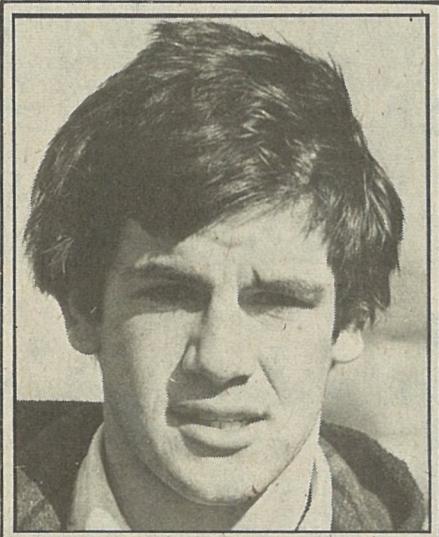
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**your goal next week
and score with this
all-star line-up . . .**

Colour: Action from Nottingham Forest's League Cup Final triumph over Southampton; Leicester City team group; Jimmy Neighbour (Norwich City); Focus on Bobby Russell (Rangers); Match action Man. United v. Spurs; Liverpool manager Bob Paisley receiving a special award to celebrate his success at Anfield.



Features: Players on how they react to victory - and defeat + Club Spotlight on Leicester City + Mike Bamber, Brighton chairman + The challengers for England's left-back position + Big Match Crosstalks - Man. City v. Everton and West Brom v. Arsenal + Jim Platt (Boro) + Barry Siddall (Sunderland) + Eoin Hand (Portsmouth) + Mark Weatherley (Gillingham) + Ian Callaghan - Is he heading for honours with Swansea? + Manchester United's Gary Bailey - the kid who conquered Old Trafford + Nick Reid (above) the new boy of Manchester City + A look at the sorry plight of Motherwell + Happy Returns to Morton for Roy Baines + all your regular favourites such as News Desk, World Wide, Goal-lines, You Are The Ref, Ask The Expert, Line-ups, Results, Scorers and star-writers Ray Clemence, Gordon McQueen, Derek Johnstone, Andy Gray.

All in SHOOT next week!

GOOD NEWS! I've completely recovered from my cartilage operation, and as I write the signs are I'll be back in action for Derby this Saturday (April 7th) against Bristol City at the Baseball Ground.

If not for the entire 90 minutes, then at least as substitute.

I was given the all clear by my specialist Dr. Cargill at Etwall Hospital's Rehabilitation Centre at lunchtime on Tuesday, March 20th.

Again I'd like to express my gratitude to Dr. Cargill and his staff for saving my career. But for their skill and patience I may well have had to retire from the game.

Dr. Cargill is an expert at the type of injuries suffered by professional sportsmen and has performed similar operations on a number of players and athletes, including Colin Todd when he was at Derby.

As regular readers of my column know only too well, I was desperately worried for a spell . . . fearing the worst.

Hopefully the darkest period of my life is now over and I can look forward to the future and playing my part in Derby's revival.

Things certainly didn't go well for the club during my long absence. They slumped alarmingly and slid down the table, going through something like five games without a win.

That spell was broken the day after I got the thumbs up from Dr.

head went up by several hundred thousand pounds.

Someone previously on offer for £250,000 was suddenly worth upwards of £400,000.

True, a club sometimes has to buy big to save a large slice of their profits going in tax, but in my opinion no player is worth seven figures.

If Trevor Francis commands that amount, what value can you place on the likes of Kenny Dalglish, Kevin Keegan, Cyrille Regis or Liam Brady? Money couldn't buy them!

But I don't want you to think I'm criticising Trevor. He's a tremendous player and not responsible for fixing the price on his head. But it has put an unfair burden on him.

Now the fans at Forest, and on every ground he plays, will be expecting something really special from him. If he doesn't score at least a hat-trick some fans will seize the opportunity to barrack and chant obscenities.

Once Trevor settles down at the City Ground I'm sure he will prove a wise and worthwhile investment. Let's face it . . . Brian Clough's no fool is he?

One recent transfer, totalling over half-a-million, I did regard as a good deal was West Ham's capture of goalkeeper Phil Parkes from Q.P.R.

All ambitious clubs need a top class 'keeper and Phil is that all right . . . possibly the third best in the



my soccer scene
GORDON HILL

'MY £6 MILLION DREAM TEAM'

Cargill when Derby beat Bolton 3-0 at the Baseball Ground. Mind you, only 15,227 saw that game, the club's lowest attendance for 11 years.

Some critics still talk of The Rams going down. That's nonsense. There's no chance we'll be relegated.

Tommy Docherty has spent a lot of money in an attempt to strengthen the side. The latest big buy was centre-half Steve Wicks from Chelsea for £275,000.

That's pocket-money compared to the £500,000's that seem to be commonplace now.

As I said recently the transfer market has gone mad . . . it's almost like a gigantic game of Soccer Monopoly.

Players are being bought and sold for ridiculous amounts. Values have not only gone sky-high, but into space and beyond.

While I was undergoing treatment at Etwall one afternoon I had a long discussion about the present situation with a couple of the doctors.

As I told them, I reckon breaking the £1 million barrier was a bad day for football in general.

Immediately Trevor Francis left Birmingham for Nottingham Forest, the price on every other player's

country at the moment.

Goalkeepers used to be cheap, now they are at a premium, like strikers.

Talking of goalscorers, what about Mike Flanagan being valued at £800,000 by Charlton?

Nearly £1 million for a player who has never played in the First Division . . . incredible!

I got to know Flan very well when we played together for the England B team in West Germany last year.

He's good, very good, but the First Division is a different ball game.

Quite a few players have tried to make the transition from the lower Divisions to the First without success. Derek Hales, for instance, who cost Derby over £350,000 when they bought him from Charlton.

Soon after The Doc took over as manager he sold Derek to West Ham for half that amount. To be fair he did score a few goals for The Hammers but overall failed to produce the form he displayed in the Second Division.

No . . . I'm not going to comment on the punch-up between Flan and Derek during their Cup-tie against Maidstone. So much has been written about that unfortunate incident it's become one of the bores of the season.





Gordon (top) with Paul Mariner (centre) and Trevor Francis. Alan Ball (above) would make a valuable contribution to Gordon's team . . . so would Crystal Palace defender Kenny Sansom (left).

Let's just hope that by the time you read this, Mike will have sorted out his problems and has got the move he wanted . . . for the right price. I wish you well, Flan.

Now for a spot of fantasy. Mentioning transfers has given me an idea. I'm going to pretend I'm the manager of a top English club and have been given £6 million to spend on building a new team.

Assuming, of course, the men I want are available, and gauging the fees on present-day prices here's my dream team in 4-3-3 formation. In goal, who else but the great

Peter Shilton, who must cost me at least £750,000.

At full-back . . . John Gidman (Aston Villa) and Kenny Sansom (Crystal Palace), valued at £500,000 apiece.

Who better for a centre-half than my Derby team-mate Steve Wicks. I'd give The Rams a profit on the fee they paid Chelsea and would be prepared to offer around £400,000.

Completing my back-four I'd try for Tottenham skipper Steve Perryman and reckon on spending another £500,000.

My midfield trio I hope would be . . . Tony Currie (Leeds — £750,000), and a bargain at that, Ardiles (Spurs — £500,000) and wait for a surprise, Alan Ball (Southampton).

Ballie's still a hell of a competitor, as he's shown this season, and would bring vast determination to the team.

Despite his age I'd pay £300,000 for Alan and make him captain and team-coach. Planning for the future, I'd have a ready-made coach or assistant-manager when he finally retires from the playing side.

Up-front I'd go for Kenny Dalglish (Liverpool), Paul Mariner (Ipswich) and Peter Barnes (Man. City).

Kenny would obviously cost £1 million. Paul probably a little cheaper at £750,000 and about the same for Barnesie.

I'd use Kenny and P.M. in the same way as Toshack and Keegan used to play for Liverpool . . . a twin spearhead. Peter would provide the crosses.

Super Sub

Without adding up what I've already spent I've probably gone over the budget. But I still need a man for all positions . . . a super-sub to step in when the need arises.

So in for £6 million, in for £7 million, and I'd go back to my board of directors and ask for another £500,000 to buy Gerry Francis from Q.P.R.

The former England skipper is now back in the Rangers side after a prolonged spell out of the game through injury and looking better than ever.

He can operate in midfield, up-front or at the back if necessary.

So there you are . . . my expense-not-spared team. It would certainly take some beating on the field . . . and with the bank manager!

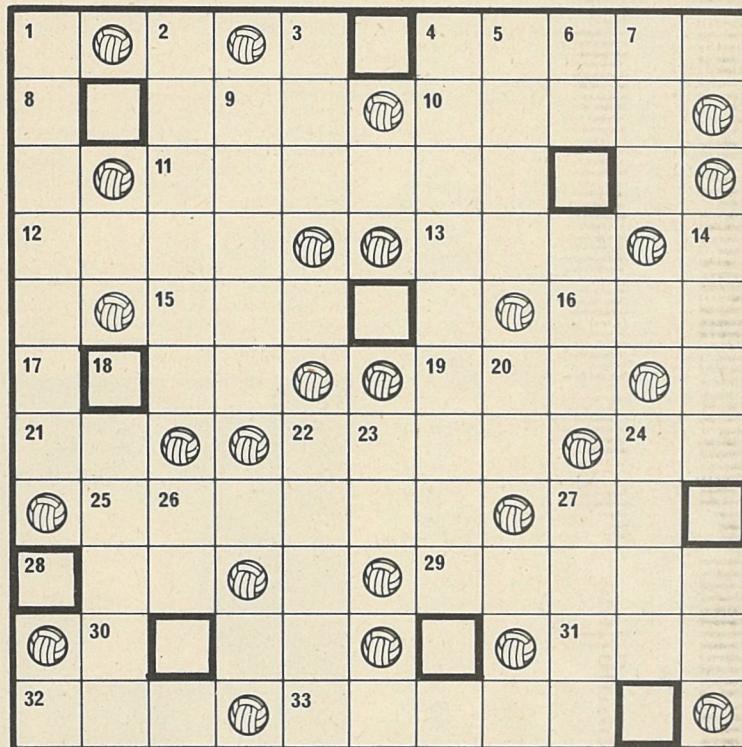
Back to reality and Derby's home game against Bristol City.

They beat us 1-0 at Ashton Gate on December 2nd. I remember the date because that's the day I made my first comeback following my knee injury. I came on as substitute in the second-half but couldn't get going. I broke down again shortly afterwards.

This time I hope I'm back to stay. Wish me luck . . .

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Leeds United striker. Answers on page 42.



ACROSS:—

- (3) Peter — Nottingham Forest 'keeper.
- (8) B-yvi-- P--k (East Fife). Conscious from the omissions.
- (10) Take four letters from Arsenal to give "close to".
- (11) Ground of Preston North End.
- (12) — Lane, home of Bury.
- (13) H-m-d-n Park Glasgow (Queen's Park).
- (15) Blackburn Rovers have appeared in — F.A. Cup Finals.
- (16) — port County, from Somerton Park.
- (17) Trevor —, Everton midfield player.
- (19) Cowdenb---h from Central Park.
- (21) Paris — Germain (French League club).
- (22) Hard drive at goal, for instance.
- (24) Werder Bre--n, West German League club.
- (25) Norman —, Bristol City defender.
- (27) Part of Luton Town was mixed up but didn't lose!
- (28) The letters of which word can be used to complete Pa--nnings of Arsenal?
- (29) --a C-u-t (Bournemouth). Bee from the missing letters.
- (30) -l-in-oo- (Torquay). Slope from the omissions.
- (31) Ray --ned- of Liverpool.
- (32) Ron ---man played a record 662 matches for Norwich City.
- (33) D--by Co-nt-, Ba-eball G-ound. A Southern county from the omissions.

DOWN:—

- (1) Current Scottish League Champions.
- (2) Club emblems, for instance.
- (3) L--d- Road (Huddersfield). The omissions reversed.
- (4) Chronologically. (As a fixture list!) (2, 4 & 5)
- (5) Jump.
- (6) Special skill for the game.
- (7) Bobby Mo---, the 1963-64 Footballer of the Year.
- (9) Cyrille —, West Bromwich Albion striker.
- (14) Gerry —, Bristol City defender.
- (18) F-e-am- G-und (Darlington). Make the missing letters into separate or additional people or things.
- (20) Bob L--chford of Everton.
- (22) The goalkeeper must release the ball after taking four of them.
- (23) --rtha BSC Berlin (West German League club).
- (24) Richard —, Fulham defender.
- (26) So----mpton mixed up and missing American state.
- (27) ---od Par- (Blackburn). Aroused from the missing letters.

RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

FIRST DIVISION

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 (Cowans) 42,419

Villa: Rimmer; Gidman, Williams, Gregory, Evans, Mortimer, Craig, Little, Gray, Cowans, Swain.

Birmingham: Freeman; Page, Dennis, Towers, Gallagher, Tarantini, Ainscow, Bertschin, Givens, Dillon, Broadhurst.

BRISTOL C. (1) 1 (Gow)

MAN. UTD. (0) 2 (Ritchie, McQueen) 24,784

Bristol C: Cashley; Gillies, Sweeney, Gow, Collier, Hunter, Tainton, Garland, Royle, Mann, Whitehead.

Man. U: Bailey; Nicholl, Albliston, McIlroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (J), Ritchie, Grimes, Thomas.

CHELSEA 0 LIVERPOOL 0 40,594

Chelsea: Borota; Wilkins (G), Stride, Bannon, Sutton, Nutton, Stanley (Doherty), Wilkins (R), Harris, Langley, Walker.

Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Hughes, Kennedy (A), Kennedy (R), Thompson, Dalglish, Johnson, Heighway, McDermott, Souness.

COVENTRY (0) 1 (Thompson)

W.B.A. (1) 3 (Robson, Brown, A., Mills) 25,795

Coventry: Sealey; Coop, McDonald, Blair, Holton, Hagan, Green, Wallace, Thompson, Powell, Hutchison.

W.B.A.: Godden; Batson, Statham, Trewick, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown (A), Regis, Mills, Cunningham.

EVERTON (2) 2 (Latchford, Telfer)

Q.P.R. (0) 1 (Goddard) 24,809

Everton: Wood; Robinson, Heard, Lyons, Wright, Ross, King, Dobson (Higgins), Latchford, Telfer, Thomas.

Q.P.R.: Richardson; Clement, Gillard, Hollins, Howe, Roeder, Shanks, Francis, Eastoe (Hamilton), Bowles, Goddard.

IPSWICH (0) 1 (Brazil)

NOTTM FOREST (1) 1 (Birtles) 27,198

Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Bzal, Woods.

Nottm F: Shilton; Anderson, Clark, McGovern, Lloyd, Needham, O'Neill, Gemmill, Birtles, Francis, Robertson.

LEEDS (1) 2 (Hawley 2)

NORWICH (0) 2 (Bond, Fashanu) 23,038

Leeds: Harvey; Cherry, Gray (F), Flynn, Parkinson, Madeley, Harris, Hird, Hawley, Currie, Graham.

Norwich: Hansbury; Bond, Symonds, Ryan, Hoadley, Powell, McGuire, Fashanu, Robson, Paddon, Peters.

MAN. CITY (1) 2 (Channon, Owen pen.)

BOLTON (0) 1 (Worthington) 41,127

Man. C: Corrigan; Donachie, Power, Owen, Watson, Booth, Channon, Viljoen, Kidd, Hartford, Barnes.

Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson, Dunne, Greaves, Jones, Walsh, Morgan, Burke (Whatmore), Gowling, Worthington, McNab.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Hayes, Waldron)

ARSENAL (0) 0 25,052

Southampton: Gennoe; Andruszewski, Peach, Williams (S), Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Hayes, Holmes, Williams (O).

Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot, O'Leary, Walford, Brady, Gatting (Heeley), Stapleton, Price, Rix.

TOTTENHAM (1) 2 (Ardiles 2)

DERBY (0) 0 28,089

Tottenham: Kendall; Naylor, Holmes, Hoddie, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Ardiles, McAllister, Lee, Villa.

Derby: McKellar; Langan, Buckley, Daly, McFarland, Wicks, Spooner, Powell, Caskey, Duncan, Greenwood.

WOLVES (1) 1 (Richards)

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 3 (Ashcroft, McAndrew, Shearer) 18,782

Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt (Daley), Patching, Clarke, Richards, Carr.

Middlesbrough: Stewart; Craggs, Johnson, Mahoney, Boam, McAndrew, Hodgson, Proctor, Ashcroft (Shearer), Burns, Armstrong.

SECOND DIVISION

BRIGHTON (0) 2 (Horton pen., Lawrenson)

BURNLEY (0) 1 (Ingham) 19,402

Brighton: Steele; Cattlin, Williams, Horton, Rollings, Lawrenson, Ryan, Ward, Maybank, Clark, O'Sullivan.

Burnley: Stevenson; Scott, Brennan, Noble, Thomson, Rodaway, Hall, Ingham, Fletcher, Kindon, James.

C. PALACE (0) 1 (Walsh)

WREXHAM (0) 0 15,154

Palace: Burridge, Hinshelwood, Sansom, Kember, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Murphy (Smillie), Swindlehurst, Walsh, Hilaire.

Wrexham: Davies; Sutton, Jones (Whittle), Roberts, Cegelski, Giles, Shinton, Cartwright, McNeil, Lyons, Fox.

LEICESTER (1) 1 (Grewcock)

CARDIFF (0) 2 (Dwyer, Stevens) 12,820

Leicester: Wallington; Goodwin, Rose, O'Neill, May, Kelly, Peake (Ridley), Grewcock, Henderson, Smith, Buchanan.

Cardiff: Healey; Roberts, Sullivan, Pontin, Dwyer, Campbell, Grapes, Bishop, Moore, Stevens, Buchanan.

MILLWALL (0) 0

SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Entwistle) 7,889

Millwall: Cuff; Donaldson; Gregory, Chambers (Mehmet), Kitchener, Blyth, Chatterton, Seasman, Mitchell, Walker, Towner.

Sunderland: Watson; Henderson, Bolton, Chisholm, Clarke, Elliott, Buckley, Rostron, Entwistle, Arnott, Rowell.

IPSWICH (0) 1 (Brazil)

NOTTM FOREST (1) 1 (Birtles) 27,198

Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Bzal, Woods.

Nottm F: Shilton; Anderson, Clark, McGovern, Lloyd, Needham, O'Neill, Gemmill, Birtles, Francis, Robertson.

LEEDS (1) 2 (Hawley 2)

NORWICH (0) 2 (Bond, Fashanu) 23,038

Leeds: Harvey; Cherry, Gray (F), Flynn, Parkinson, Madeley, Harris, Hird, Hawley, Currie, Graham.

Norwich: Hansbury; Bond, Symonds, Ryan, Hoadley, Powell, McGuire, Fashanu, Robson, Paddon, Peters.

MAN. CITY (1) 2 (Channon, Owen pen.)

BOLTON (0) 1 (Worthington) 41,127

Man. C: Corrigan; Donachie, Power, Owen, Watson, Booth, Channon, Viljoen, Kidd, Hartford, Barnes.

Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson, Dunne, Greaves, Jones, Walsh, Morgan, Burke (Whatmore), Gowling, Worthington, McNab.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Hayes, Waldron)

ARSENAL (0) 0 25,052

Southampton: Gennoe; Andruszewski, Peach, Williams (S), Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Hayes, Holmes, Williams (O).

Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot, O'Leary, Walford, Brady, Gatting (Heeley), Stapleton, Price, Rix.

TOTTENHAM (1) 2 (Ardiles 2)

DERBY (0) 0 28,089

Tottenham: Kendall; Naylor, Holmes, Hoddie, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Ardiles, McAllister, Lee, Villa.

Derby: McKellar; Langan, Buckley, Daly, McFarland, Wicks, Spooner, Powell, Caskey, Duncan, Greenwood.

WOLVES (1) 1 (Richards)

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 3 (Ashcroft, McAndrew, Shearer) 18,782

Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt (Daley), Patching, Clarke, Richards, Carr.

Middlesbrough: Stewart; Craggs, Johnson, Mahoney, Boam, McAndrew, Hodgson, Proctor, Ashcroft (Shearer), Burns, Armstrong.

ORIENT (0) 1 (Moores pen.)

BRISTOL R (0) 1 (White)

Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Greasham, Gray, Went, Chiedozie, Whittle, Mayo, Moores, Coates.

Bristol R: Thomas; Day, Bater, Aitken, Taylor, Prince, Dennehy, Williams, Staniforth, Emmanuel, White.

PRESTON (2) 2 (Bruce, Potts)

FULHAM (1) 2 (Kitchen, Guthrie)

Preston: Tunks; Taylor, Cameron, Doyle, Baxter, O'Riordan, Coleman, Haslegrave, Robinson, Potts, Bruce.

Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Lock, Money, Gale, Marinello, Beck, Guthrie, Kitchen, Bullivant.

STOKE (1) 2 (Doyle, Randall)

WEST HAM (0) 0 24,912

Stoke: Jones; Dodd, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Doyle, Randall, Irvine, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Richardson.

West Ham: Parkes; McDowell, Brush, Curbishley, Martin, Bonds, Holland, Devonshire, Cross, Brooking, Robson.

Postponed: Blackburn v Cambridge

THIRD DIVISION

BURY (3) 4 (Beamish 3, Madden)

EXETER (0) 2 (Hatch, Giles)

Bury: Forrest; Constantine, Kennedy, Lugg, Bailey (Mullen), Whitehead, Stanton, Wilson, Beamish, Madden, Taylor.

Exeter: O'Keefe; Templeman, Hore, Randall, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Sims, Pearson, Delve, Hatch.

CHESTER (2) 4 (Oakes, Jones, Phillips, Edwards)

OXFORD (1) 1 (Seacole)

Chester: Lloyd; Raynor, Walker, Stortor (Nickleas), Jeffries, Oakes, Jones, Sutcliffe, Edwards, Phillips, Henderson.

Oxford: Burton; McIntosh (McGrogan), Fogg, Briggs, Bodel, Jeffrey, Duncan, Taylor, Berry, Seacole, Hodgson.

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (Richardson)

PETERBOROUGH (0) 0 6,890

Gillingham: Hillyard; Sharpe, Barker, Overton, Weatherley, Crabbe, Nicholl, White, Price, Westwood, Richardson.

Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Styles, Doyle, Green, Ross, Carmichael, McEwan, Butlin, Cook (Robin), Cliss.

MANSFIELD (1) 1 (Curtis pen.)

BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Spence) 4,829

Mansfield: Arnold; Dawkins, Foster (B), Bird, Saxby, Curtis, Carter, Hamilton (Wood), Syrett, Martin, Goodwin.

Blackpool: Hesford; Malone, Pashley, Thompson, Suddaby, McEwan, Weston, Jones, Spence, Davidson, Waldron (Chandler).

PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Megson)

WALSALL (0) 0 6,487

Plymouth: Hodge; Harrison, McNeill, Bascon, James, Clarke, Fear, Megson, Binney, Johnson, Rogers.

Walsall: Turner; Harrison, Caswell, Jones, Serolla, Sbragia, King, Waddington, Austin, McDonough, Macken.

ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Finney)

CARLISLE (0) 3 (Kemp 2, Tait) 3,908

Rotherham: McAllister; Forrest, Breckin, Stancliffe, Green, Flynn, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Crawford, Smith.

Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, McCartney, MacDonald, Tait, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Kemp, Ludlam, McLean.

SHEFF. WED 0 SHREWSBURY 0 11,284

Sheff. W: Turner; Shirtliff, Rushbury, Pickering, Mullen, Johnson, Wynde, Porterfield (Taylor), Leman, Lowey, Hornsby.

Shrewsbury: Wardle; King (Cross), Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Chapman, Atkins, Tong, Biggins, Maguire.

SWINDON (4) 6 (Rowland 2, Mayes, McHale, Bates, Hubbard o.g.)

Lincoln (0) 0 6,649

Swindon: Allan; Hamilton, Ford, McHale, Aizlewood, Stroud, Miller, Carter, Rowland, Mayes, Kamara (Bates).

Lincoln: Grotier; Hubbard, Leigh, Harding, Loxley, Smith, Guest, Ward (Jones), Harford, Cockerill, Hobson.

TRANMERE (0) 0 BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Phillips) 1,882

Transmere: Rafferty; Wilkinson (Nicholls), Dulson, Purdie, Bowles, Bevan, Davies, Roberts, Nelson, Coyne, Warnock



Brian Horton scored from the spot in Brighton's 2-1 home victory over Burnley.

FOURTH DIVISION

ALDERSHOT (1) 2 (Needham 2)

HEREFORD (0) 0 3,932

Aldershot: Johnson; Howitt, Edwards, Longhorn, Youlden, Jopling, Crosby, Brodie, Needham, Dungworth, McGregor.

Hereford: Hughes; Price, Burrows, Layton, Corne, Emey, Stephens, Hendry, Jones (Bailey), Gould, Phillips.

BRADFORD C (0) 1 (Robertson)

SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 (Pilling) 4,988

Bradford: Downsbrough; Podd, Watson, Johnson (Martinez), Baines, Wood, Cook, Dolan, Robertson, McNiven, Hutchins.

Scunthorpe: Crawford; O'Donnell, Pilling, Oates, Deere, Czuczman, Grimes, Kilmore, Earl (Peacock), Kavanagh, Keeley.

DARLINGTON (0) 0

ROCHDALE (1) 2 (Jones, Esser) 1,495

Darlington: Burleigh; Crosson, Cochrane, Nattress, Craig (Taylor), Stone, Maitland, Wann, Ferguson, Seal, Walsh.

Rochdale: Felgate; Creamer, Taylor, Scaife, Scott, Snookes, O'Loughlin, Hoy, Jones (Collins), Esser, Owen.

GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Waters)

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 5,428

Grimbsy: Batch; Moore (D), Moore (K), Waters, Wiggington, Crombie, Ford, Mitchell, Lester, Cumming, Brerell (Drinkell).

Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Ferns, Impey, Brown (R), Miller, Borthwick (Lennard), MacDougall, Scott, Massey, Weeks.

HALIFAX (2) 2 (Ellis o.g., Johnson)

PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 1,741

Halifax: Kilner; Bradley, Trainer, Smith, Burke, Delevante, Firth, Kennedy, Mountford, Loska, Johnson.

Portsmouth: Mellor; Ellis, Wilson, Denyer, Foster, Davey, Hemmerton, Lathan, Showers (Garwood), Barnard, Puller.

HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 (Houchen, Crumplin)

CREWE (1) 2 (Nelson, Coyne) 2,427

Hartlepool: Edgar; Smith (T), Garry, Lawrence, Brooks, Ayre, Linacre, Houchen, Crumplin, Goldthorpe, Loadwick.

Crewe: Rafferty; Wilkinson (Nicholls), Dulson, Purdie, Bowles, Bevan, Davies, Roberts, Nelson, Coyne, Warnock.

NEWPORT (1) 3 (Moore, Tynan, Lowndes)
DONCASTER (0) 0 2,550
 Newport: Plumley; Thompson, Byrne, Davies, Oakes, Bruton, Bailey, Lowndes, Goddard, Tynan, Moore
 Doncaster: Peacock; Olney, Snodin, Bradley, Cannell, Lally, Laidlaw, Meagan, Owen (Habbin), Lewis, Pugh

TORQUAY (0) 2 (Lawrence 2)
PORT VALE (2) 2 (Todd, Wright) 1,800
 Torquay: Turner, Twitchin, Darke, Raper, Payne, Dunne, Davies, Wilson, Lawrence, Cooper, Murphy
 Port Vale: Dance; Keeman, Griffiths, Beech, Sproson, Hawkins, Sinclair, Farrell, Wright, Todd, Healy

WIGAN (0) 1 (Wright)
BARNESLEY (0) 1 (Clarke pen.) 9,427
 Wigan: Brown; Smart, Hinnigan, Gore, Ward, Fretwell, Corrigan, Wright, Brownbill, Moore, Purdie
 Barnsley: Springett; Chambers, Collins, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Little, Clarke, Riley, Millar (Banks), Bell

WIMBLEDON (0) 2 (Leslie, Driver)
HUDDERSFIELD (1) 1 (Holmes) 3,265
 Wimbledon: Goddard; Bryant, Haverson, Kettridge, Galvin, Perkins, Leslie, Galliers, Denny (Driver), Cork, Parsons
 Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Sandercock, Hart, Hanvey, Sutton, Holmes, Cowling, Fletcher, Robins, Howey.

YORK (0) 0
READING (1) 1 (Earles) 2,654
 York: Neenan; Kay, Walsh, Pugh, Faulkner, Clements, Ford (Wellings), Randall, Loggie, McDonald, Staniforth
 Reading: Death; Peters, White, Hetzke, Hicks, Bennett, Earles, Kearns (Sanchez), Kearney, Wanklyn, Lewis

SCOTTISH CUP (Fourth Round)

DUNDEE (2) 4 (Lamb, Sinclair 2, Pirie pen.)
ST. MIRRIN (0) 1 (Munro) 11,140
 Dundee: Donaldson; Barr, Schaeffer, McLaren, Glennie, Watson, Murphy, Lamb, Pirie, Sinclair, Shirra
 St. Mirren: Thomson; Beckett, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, Richardson, Stark (Torrance), Bone, Abercrombie, McGarvey

HEARTS (1) 1 (Gibson pen.)
MORTON (0) 1 (Anderson) 7,283
 Hearts: Dunlop; Kidd, Brown, Liddell, Jeffries, Craig, Gibson, Fraser, O'Connor, Shaw, Robertson
 Morton: Connaghan; Hayes, Holmes, Anderson, Orr, McLaren, McNeill (Tolmie), Hutchinson, Thomson, Scott, Ritchie

SCOTTISH PREMIER

CELTIC (0) 1 (Conn)
ABERDEEN (0) 0 26,000
 Celtic: Latchford; McGrain, Lynch, Aitken, McDonald, Edvaldsson, Provan, MacLeod, Conn, Burns (Filippi), Doyle
 Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, McLelland, McMaster, Rougvie, Miller, Sullivan, Archibald, Scanlon, Jarvie (Harper), Strachan

HIBS (0) 1 (Bremner)
DUNDEE UTD (0) 0 6,000
 Hibs: McArthur; Brazil, Duncan, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Higgins, MacLeod, Hutchinson, Callaghan, Lambie (Rae)
 Dundee U: McAlpine; Stewart, Stark, Phillip (Dodds), Hegarty, Narey, Holt, Fleming, Sturrock, Kirkwood, Payne (Frye)

PARTICK 0
MOTHERWELL 0 5,000
 Partick: Rough; McKinnon, Whittaker, Campbell, Marr, Anderson, Houston, Park, McAdam, McIrose (McGregor), O'Hara (Gibson).
 Motherwell: Rennie; McLeod, Kennedy, Rafferty (Leonard), Dempsey, Stevens, Meikle (Larnach), Pettigrew, Sommerville, Clinging, Donnelly.

MONDAY, MARCH 5

FOURTH DIVISION

STOCKPORT (3) 4 (Bradd 2, Lee, Henson)
CREWE (1) 3 (Davies, Coyne, Bevan) 3,102
 Stockport: Lawson; Thorpe, Rutter, Edwards, Park, Fogarty, Prudham, Armstrong, Bradd, Summerbee (Henson), Lee.
 Crewe: Rafferty; Hughes, Dulson, Nicholls, Bowles, Bevan, Davies, Roberts, Coyne, Warlock, Robertson.



Young Garry Birtles scored Nottingham Forest's goal against Ipswich Town at Portman Road.

SCOTTISH CUP Fourth Round replay

MORTON (0) 0
HEARTS (0) 1 (Busby) 8,000
 Morton: Connaghan; Hayes, Holmes, Anderson, Orr, Rooney, McNeil, Miller, Evans, Scott, Ritchie.
 Hearts: Brough; Kidd, Brown, Liddell, Jeffries, Craig, Gibson, Fraser, O'Connor, Busby, Robertson.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

EUROPEAN CUP Quarter-Final first-leg

COLOGNE (0) 1 (Muller)
RANGERS (0) 0 40,000
 Cologne: Schumacher; Konopka, Zimmermann, Schuster, Gerber, Cullmann, Glowacz (Prestin), Elohe, Muller, Neumann, Littbarski.

Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Dawson, Forsyth, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean, Russell, Parlane (Urquhart), Smith, Denny (Miller).

FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (0) 3 (Buckley, Towers pen., Broadhurst)
Q.P.R. (0) 1 (Busby) 12,650
 Birmingham: Freeman; Page, Pendrey, Towers, Gallagher, Tarantini, Ainscow, Bertschin (Broadhurst), Givens, Dillon, Buckley.
 Q.P.R.: Richardson; Clement (Busby), Gil-lard, Hollins, Howe, Roeder, Shanks, Francis, Eastoe, Bowles, Goddard.

COVENTRY 0
LIVERPOOL 0 26,629
 Coventry: Sealey; Coop, McDonald, Yorath, Holton, Hagan, Green, Wallace, Thompson, Powell, Hutchinson.
 Liverpool: Clements; Neal, Hughes, Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Johnson, Case, McDermott, Souness.

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 1 (Armstrong)
EVERTON (1) 2 (Jack, Latchford) 15,990
 Middlesbrough: Stewart; Craggs, Johnson, Mahoney, Boam, McAndrew, Hodgson, Proctor, Ashcroft, Burns (Shearer), Armstrong.
 Everton: Wood; Heard, Higgins, Lyons, Wright, Ross, Jack, Dobson, Latchford, Telfer, Thomas.

SECOND DIVISION

BURNLEY (1) 1 (Fletcher)
SHEFF. UTD (1) 1 (Kenworthy) 9,000
 Burnley: Stevenson; Scott, Brennan, Noble, Thomson, Rodaway, Jakub, Ingham, Fletcher (Morley), Kindon, James.
 Sheff. U: Conroy; Speight, Garner, Kenworthy, McPhail, Guy, Matthews, Sabella, Flood, Brown, Hamson.

CHARLTON (0) 2 (Peacock, Gritt)
CAMBRIDGE (3) 3 (Biley, Christie, Cozens) 6,119
 Charlton: Johns; Penfold (Madden), Warman, Campbell, Shipperley, Berry, Powell, Robinson, Gritt, Brisley, Peacock.
 Cambridge: Webster; Graham, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Cozens, Christie (Buckley), Spriggs, Murray, Finney, Biley.

OLDHAM (0) 1 (Young)
BRIGHTON (1) 3 (Ward, Rollings, Ryan) 4,637
 Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Blair, Bell, Hicks, Hurst, Keegan, Young, Halom, Chapman, Gardner (Heaton).
 Brighton: Steele; Cattlin, Williams, Horton, Rollings, Lawrence, Ryan, Ward, Maybank, Clark, O'Sullivan.

THIRD DIVISION

BURY (0) 1 (Beamish pen.)
BLACKPOOL (1) 3 (Spence 2, Jones) 4,575
 Bury: Forrest; Constantine, Kennedy, Lugg, Hatton (Johnson), Whitehead, Stanton, Wilson, Beamish, Madden, Taylor.
 Blackpool: Hesford; Malone, Pashley, Thompson, Sudbury, McEwan, Jones, Ronson, Spence, Davidson, Weston.

CARLISLE (1) 2 (McCartney pen., Bonnyman)
TRANMERE (0) 0 4,330
 Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, McCartney, MacDonald, Tait, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Ludlam, Kemp, McLean.
 Tranmere: Johnson; Mathias, Palios, Parry, Postlewhite, Evans, O'Neil, Bramhall, Kerr, Craiven, McAuley.

HULL (0) 1

BRENTFORD (0) 0 3,418
 Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, DeVries, Shipperley, Dobson, Haigh, Warboys, Horswill, Edwards, Bannister, Farley.
 Brentford: Bond; Salmon, Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Graham (J), Glover, Shrub, Smith (Allard), McCulloch, Phillips.

ROTHERHAM (0) 0

SWANSEA (0) 1 (Waddle) 3,864
 Rotherham: McAllister; Forrest, Breckin, Stancliffe, Green, Flynn, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Smith, Crawford.
 Swansea: Crugington; Morris, Bartley, Smith, Stevenson, Charles, Attley, James, Curtis, Toshack (Waddle), Callaghan.

**CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.
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**SOCCER
MONTHLY** 40p

NOBBY

I THOUGHT YOU WERE OFF
SICK YESTERDAY, YOUNG
MAN!

YES, SIR, I WAS!

WELL YOU DIDN'T LOOK SICK
TO ME WHEN I SAW YOU
GOING TO THE SOCCER MATCH

PERHAPS NOT, BUT YOU SHOULD'VE
SEEN ME AFTER THEIR
THIRD
GOAL!

TWO TERRIFIC BOOKLETS

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IN 'ROY OF THE ROVERS' THIS WEEK

"ROY'S CUP FINAL PARADE" PART 1

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ROY OF THE ROVERS



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ADD 20p p&p per item, Overseas 50p	

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FOOTBALL's road to success is a long hard climb. And sliding down makes returning to the top twice as hard. But that's what Mel Blyth and Ralph Coates have done. Blyth spent a nightmarish summer in South Africa after buying his own registration from Southampton, and Coates trooped dejectedly off to Australia after a season of misery at Spurs.

Now they're back. And while Coates is winning praise for his midfield

performances in Orient's push to the fringe of the Second Division promotion race, Blyth has become a key figure in Millwall's fight to escape relegation to the Third.

Coates has at last shaken off the £190,000 flop label that haunted him at Tottenham. The former England player was uncomfortable at White Hart Lane after his record breaking transfer from Burnley in 1971, and plunged to rock bottom last season.

WELCOME BACK -

TO RALPH COATES, RETURNED FROM AUSTRALIA — IN A NEW ROLE AT ORIENT

"I PLAYED only one full game last term — and by the end, while everybody else was getting excited about promotion, my confidence had gone completely.

"I was given the chance to go to Australia, to play for St. George's of Sydney, and decided to take it. I went there on loan, but if I settled in they wanted me to sign a two to three year contract.

"Well, I did settle in. I had a great

time, lapped up the sunshine, played lots of football, and all my confidence came back. It was so good I nearly stayed there.

"But I felt so fit and sharp I was sure I could make it in England again — and that is where it counts."

Coates came home and began training with Spurs — and within days Orient manager Jimmy Bloomfield moved in and acquired him on a free transfer.

It was one of the shrewdest signings this season. Orient had a team full of promising youngsters, but needed an old head to give them composure.

And while Coates, at 32, might not be ready to draw his old age pension yet, he's got the experience of more than 400 League games behind him.

"I'm happier now than at any time since I left Burnley," he says.

"Coming to Orient was just the challenge I needed.

"I've been playing a new role, deeper in midfield, and it really suits me. I've also been delighted with the way the other lads here have accepted me.

"I knew my job was to help them — but I didn't know how they would respond to me. I thought they might not like criticism.

"In fact it's the opposite. They're a great bunch of lads who can't learn enough. It's given me a new lease of life — I honestly believe I could keep playing for another three or four years."

TO MEL BLYTH, FROM SOUTH AFRICA — ENJOYING LIFE WITH THE LIONS

ON THE other side of London Mel Blyth is making equally confident predictions for his future.

Blyth, who is also 32, has signed a two-year contract with Millwall — and fancies his chances of renewing it when the time comes. "The way I am playing now I could go on until I'm 40," he claims confidently.

Yet only months ago Blyth was seriously thinking about hanging up his boots and retiring.

"I knew I could play — the problem was finding someone else who thought so too," he says.

The irony was that Millwall manager George Petchey was the only person who still believed in Blyth — but he didn't think the former Palace and Southampton defender wanted to join his club.

Blyth, meanwhile, had enormous respect for Petchey — but didn't think the manager wanted him.

"I spent a season arguing with Southampton and trying to get away," Blyth recalls. "Eventually I bought my own registration — which cost me half a season's wages — on condition I went abroad.

"I joined Cape Town City in South Africa. Fortunately it was only for a short period, because the football out there horrified me.

"We weren't in a League, instead we toured the country playing exhibition matches against black teams. It wasn't too bad at first, because Kevin Keegan, Mike Channon and Mick Walsh were also in the side. But then they went home and left me on my own, and I got terribly depressed.



"By September I had had enough. I packed my bags and came home. When I got back to England I rang George Petchey, and asked if he could help me find a club.

"We agreed I would come to train with Millwall while I was looking. George said he already had too big a staff to take me on.

"I started training with the first team, and George contacted a lot of people in the game trying to find me a club.

"But because I had a bad reputation, was not known as the easiest person to get on with, nobody wanted to know.

"This went on for two months, and I was beginning to get worried that nobody would come in for me.

"Then one Monday we had a hard session against the clock, and I came out with the best time. The following day George called me into his office and said: 'Do you fancy playing against Cardiff on Saturday?'

"Even then we were both cautious. I only signed a month's contract. But now things have worked out and I'm completely at home here."

Petchey cannot resist a smile at the story. "I had sold Tony Hazell and was searching everywhere for a centre-half. Suddenly one morning the obvious dawned on me. I had just the right man training with us, and was trying to send him to another club.

"Now I'm relieved nobody else wanted him. He is a solid, competitive character, and his attitude spreads to the rest of the team. I admire his determination to stay in League football. He's got guts."





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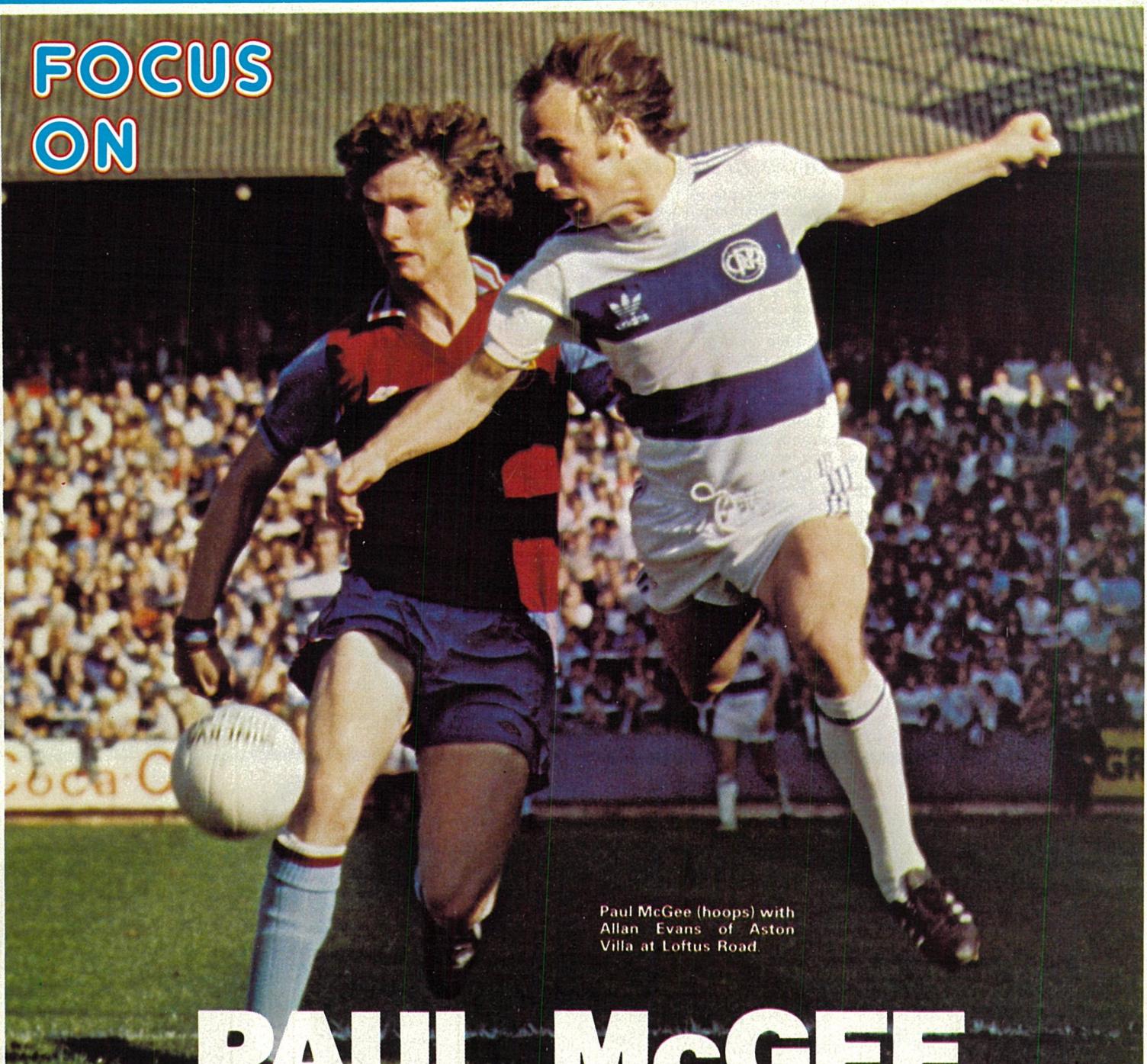
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FOCUS ON



Paul McGee (hoops) with Allan Evans of Aston Villa at Loftus Road.

PAUL McGEE Q.P.R.

FULL NAME: Paul Gerard McGee
BIRTHPLACE: Sligo, Ireland
BIRTHDATE: 19th June, 1955
HEIGHT: 5ft 10ins
WEIGHT: 12st
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Sligo Rovers and Toronto Metros
MARRIED: Yes to Terese
CHILDREN: One son called Alan
CAR: Renault 17TL
FAVOURITE PLAYER: My team-mate John Hollins
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Manchester United
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Everton's Colin Todd
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Eire v. Turkey and my debut for Q.P.R. against Coventry City
BIGGEST THRILL: Playing for Ireland
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: No big upsets, yet!

BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Switzerland and Canada
FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak, Pizza and Chicken
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Playing golf and two points on a Saturday afternoon
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Travelling and bad publicity
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: The Tommy Cooper Show and The Sweeney
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Rod Stewart and The Eagles
FAVOURITE ACTORS: Clint Eastwood and James Coburn
BEST FRIEND: Mostly my team-mates at Rangers and former club-mate Don Givens, now with Birmingham City

BIGGEST INFLUENCES ON CAREER: B. Sinclair, G. Mitchell (Sligo), Johnny Giles, Theo Foley (Q.P.R.) and my family.

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Losing and being injured

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Youth caps, Inter-League and full caps for Eire

PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy

PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To become a top player

IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? Very unhappy
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? George Best

Paul McGee

LEAGUE newcomers less than two seasons ago; Fourth Division Champions by the end of the season? That's the extraordinary story that could be the talk of football by the end of this term.

The club making all the news so early in its League life is Wimbledon. Yet under manager Dario Gradi, the famous Dons are looking set fair for promotion to the Third Division — quite possibly as Champions, too. It's all a dramatic change from last season when the League new boys struggled for most of the season.

How have Wimbledon achieved it? "By playing football," argues go-ahead young manager Dario Gradi, who has guided them towards the top of the table.

'Succeed'

"We are not kicking our way out of the Division even though people say you need to, to survive. But we have to be able to take the kicking of other sides and fight against them. But we're playing football to succeed. It's the only way."

Noble sentiments. But Gradi's hopes for the future are not just confined to reaching the Third Division at the end of this season. Ambitious Wimbledon have plans for the future, like reaching the First Division within ten years.

"We're right on target," says Gradi. "We had expected another season in the Fourth; three seasons in the Third, four years in the Second and then maybe the push for Division One. We're quite serious about it all, too. We want this

'WE'RE NO KICKERS'

says DARIO GRADI manager of promotion hopefuls Wimbledon

club to go places."

But Wimbledon won't be doing it by splashing out huge sums in the transfer market. Money is tight at Plough Lane and it will only be through sheer hard work and enterprising financial schemes, that the club will develop.

"We have a youth scheme now and we think that is our best bet for the future," says Gradi. "I have to produce my own players and also buy those who are young from other clubs and develop them. I'm only spending small money on youngsters; lads from the reserve sides or non-leagues. If a player became available at £4,000 to £5,000, I might be able to have the money to spend but that's about all." A different world, clearly, from the huge transactions now going on in the First Division.

Gradi is a man who likes flexibility. He likes enterprising football and concentrates on ability and skill. He has developed several aspects of Wimbledon's play. "I make my coaching sessions very demanding," he says. "But I make sure also we use the ball most of the time. It's not just fitness, the ball is vital.

"No one at Wimbledon wants to

stay in this Division. We are all ambitious and we work very hard as a club to improve our status."

Indeed they do. Wimbledon are hoping to buy some land at nearby Raynes Park where they can build a stadium and training ground to replace Plough Lane. That's for the future but at present, a more temporary building is being purchased on the Plough Lane site. An injury clinic, young supporters club, a creche for use during the week and other new facilities are planned for the present time. The local pub, owned by the club, is to be enlarged with restaurant facilities added. "We're very community minded," says Gradi.

"We hope to increase the seating and put in another bar, too. It's all got to be attractive for the fans."

But it's on the field the success or failure of the club will be determined. "We're going well," adds Gradi. "We have healthy competition for places and, even when things are difficult for us playing-wise, I don't find it too hard to lift the lads. You see, everyone wants to do well for Wimbledon and that's what we're working for, all the time."



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JOHN PICKERING'S BRAVE 'NEW WORLD'

JOHN Pickering, Blackburn Rovers' new boss, described his first managerial appointment as an entirely new world. "It's totally different from playing or coaching," said the 34-year-old 'unknown', who after a playing career as a centre-half with Chelsea, Newcastle, Halifax and Barnsley, took on the role of youth team coach at Ewood Park four years ago.

"I always wanted to stay in the game," he adds, "but I didn't know whether I wanted to become a coach or a manager."

John has come in at a difficult time. Blackburn are at the bottom of the Second Division and he seems to be on a hiding to nothing. So why did he take on the mammoth task of pulling Rovers out of the relegation zone?

"It's a manager's job in the Second Division," he says. "Normally bosses begin their careers in the lower reaches with players of less ability, but I'm starting with players of quality."

"We've sold full-back Kevin Hird to Leeds for £350,000 but bought the talented Duncan McKenzie from Chelsea for £120,000. He should be a great asset."

"I expect my players to be good professionals and to go on the pitch on a Saturday afternoon fully committed to the game. I'm not hard in the bawling and shouting stakes. I prefer to talk to players separately in my office rather than shout at them in front of the others. But I am a stickler in the principles of the game and that it should be played right."

"Obviously during my playing career I've worked under several managers and you do learn from them, but in the final analysis you've got to be your own self. I don't think you can copy other people. If the style doesn't suit your personality, then the players will soon find you out."

John, born in Stockton-on-Tees, has spent almost his entire playing days in the managerial breeding ground of the Fourth Division

where he learned to think deeply about the game.

"Managers who come from the Fourth Division are determined to make the grade and to accomplish something that they haven't achieved on the playing side," he said. "They've made a living, but haven't earned a great deal of money, so they turn to management in the hope of making the big time."

"There's also the question of survival. In the Fourth Division you have to skimp and scrape to make ends meet, which is good experience for a manager."

"Former Leeds boss, Jimmy Armfield, is on the Ewood scene and his role is to advise the board and myself on the relative merits of players under scrutiny, but the buying part is left entirely to me."

'Written off'

"As far as I'm concerned success depends purely and simply on getting Blackburn out of trouble. Some people have already written us off, but I haven't. I don't see how anybody can write a team off with so many matches left to play."

"Anything can happen and until it's mathematically impossible for us to stay up, then we've got to fight, we've got to train and we've got to concentrate on the game."

"My philosophy is there are ten outfield players and we've got to play as a team — go up the park as a unit and come back behind the ball together. As long as the players can truthfully say after 90 minutes play they've worked as hard as they possibly can, whether they've had a good game or a bad game, then that's okay by me."

"It's a big challenge and if I can come through this, then I can conquer anything. The first three weeks of my managerial career were sheer hell. I only hope by Easter I'm going to see some light."

We wish John Pickering every success.

Will there be more new clubs for old this year?

by Derek Wilkinson

Wigan 'keeper John Brown punches clear from Steve Davey of Portsmouth this season.



WHAT will happen at the forthcoming Football League annual meeting when the votes are cast for the Fourth Division's bottom four clubs as they appeal for re-election and the cluster of ambitious would-be new boys who seek to displace one or other among them?

Will the "old pals act" be applied again, as so often in the past, and will there be a reprieve for those last four or will one, if not two, of them be cast out in favour of a new club or two?

Without seeking to attempt to prejudice or pre-judge the issue one way or the other, I say without reservation that, on the evidence of the trends of recent years, there could not be a much more powerful case for at least one change in club constitution.

Consider: Since the War seven clubs have been compelled to forfeit Football League status, and 11 new ones have been admitted, the discrepancy being accounted for by the fact at the end of season 1949-50 the League was extended from 88 to 92 members.

The departed comprised Accrington Stanley, Barrow, Bradford, Gateshead, New Brighton, Southport, and Workington, all of whom were such acutely-ailing clubs they have either gone out of existence altogether or have sunk into the semi-obscurity of minor spheres, with precious little, if any, hope of ever being capable of advancing a healthy claim to restoration of League rank.

Now look what happened to the 11 newcomers, who were: Colchester, Gillingham, Scunthorpe, Shrewsbury, Workington, Peterborough, Oxford, Cambridge, Hereford, Wimbledon, and Wigan.

Apart from Workington, who were voted out two years ago after having kept the flag flying as a League club for 26 seasons, all the others can argue they have become assets of the League in

LEVISION

At all events nine — and they include even Workington — can claim to have won promotion at least once, and Wimbledon and Wigan Athletic, both still in their infancy as League clubs, have made uncommonly rapid progress in turning on formidable promotion bids this season.

There's surely a lesson for the League in all this, and it is: All the signs and portents are that the competition would be well-nigh certain to be given a further new stimulus by the election of another new club or two.

Wigan Athletic's case is one of the most striking in living memory in the evidence it has thrown up of the latent potential that may be commanded by this, that, or the other progressive minor club.

League door

It took Wigan more than 40 years, as they made their annual application, to prise open the League door and be allowed to enter it, as they were at last at the end of last season.

Not only have they straightaway become one of the most formidable teams in Division Four, but they have astonished the entire soccer world by the support they have commanded.

Note these striking facts: Wigan's average gate has been the Fourth Division's third biggest after those of Portsmouth and Barnsley; it has exceeded half of those in Division Three; and it has even been bigger than Orient's in Division Two!

Don't tell me that there aren't more potential Wigans among other would-be new clubs who clamour for admission to the League. All they need is at least a chance to PROVE they, too, could and would become League assets.

PREVIEW

Scottish Cup Semi-Final

Hibs hungry for revenge

HIBS set out on a revenge mission when they play Aberdeen in the Scottish Cup Semi-Final at Hampden on Wednesday (April 11).

It is the tie Hibs would undoubtedly have selected for themselves. They met The Dons in the League Cup Semi-Final at Dens Park earlier this season and took the game into extra-time after an astonishing blunder by goalkeeper Mike MacDonald gifted Aberdeen their winner.

International right-back Stuart Kennedy floated over a cross from the wing. There seemed to be no danger as MacDonald went up for the high ball. The Hibs defence looked on in horror as he mistimed his leap and the ball floated over his head and dropped behind him into the net.

Hibs' hopes of a Hampden Final ended there and then, but now they have the opportunity to

make up for their disappointment and one of their key men is likely to be Jim McArthur, who has taken over in goal from the unfortunate MacDonald.

The last time McArthur played at Hampden was in the League Cup Final against Celtic five seasons ago and it was hardly memorable as six efforts zipped past him and Celtic claimed the trophy with a 6-3 victory.

Hibs, in fact, are very much the odd men out of the four teams who made the Semi-Finals. Rangers and Partick Thistle, who played last week, of course, and Aberdeen all made the Semi-Finals last season. Hibs have now taken the place of Dundee United, who were eliminated in an early round by St. Mirren.

It's going to be a tough, tense tussle and Aberdeen have already proved their ability with a shock 2-1 Quarter-Final replay victory over Celtic at Parkhead.

Again The Dons had to thank amazing goal-keeping blunders for that win. Peter Latchford made a terrible mess of an effort by Duncan Davidson in the first minute and presented the Pittodrie side with a goal.

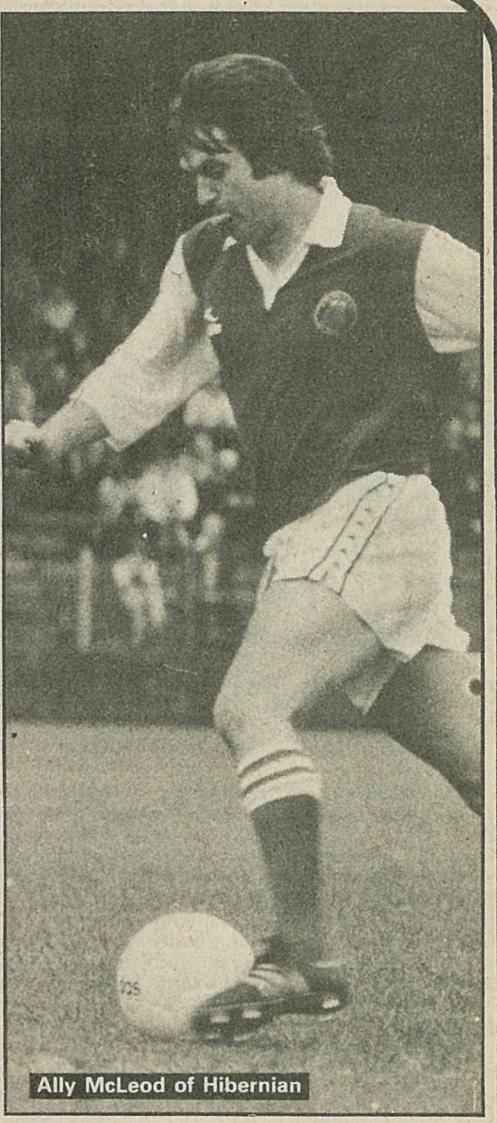
In the 12th minute Latchford was caught again and Stevie Archibald scored with a header the 'keeper should have covered easily. Celtic got one back through Bobby Lennox, but resolute defence by Alex Ferguson's team shut them out as they roared in for the equaliser.

Hibs will find it difficult to crack such a formidable rearguard that has goalkeeper Bobby Clark playing better than ever with skipper and sweeper Willie Miller an impressive figure as he goes about his job with little flamboyance or frills.

Former Hibs striker Joe Harper is always deadly against his old team-mates and Stevie Archibald is capable of stealing a goal or two against any defence.

Hibs could rely on the special skills of Ally MacLeod, who has been playing well this season. Ralph Callachan, too, is beginning to show flair in the middle of the park.

So, who is going to book that Final spot? Hibs are hungry for revenge, but Aberdeen could have the players who matter on the night. Eddie Turnbull will obviously disagree, but we're taking the Pittodrie side to get through, with or without the "help" of the rival goalkeeper.



Ally MacLeod of Hibernian



Bobby Clark of Aberdeen

Tartan Talk DANNY MCGRAN



Enthusiastic Scottish fans invade the Wembley pitch after England's 2-1 defeat in 1977.

I'll leave my Tartan Talk colleague Derek Johnstone to comment on the performance of the Scottish challenge in Europe ... after all, he has been as much the heart and soul of Rangers' marvellous showing as anybody.

But perhaps you will excuse me a few paragraphs of opinion on certain faces of British clubs in the European competition Quarter-Finals which seemingly went unnoticed.

For example, whatever the critics might say about crowd interest in football in England and Scotland, I think Rangers proved when it comes to THE big ones, Scottish fans win hands down.

I never tire of telling you Scotland's fans are the best in the world. Anyone who has ever been at Wembley to see England play host to the Tartan Army, will for example, have played "spot the Englishman."

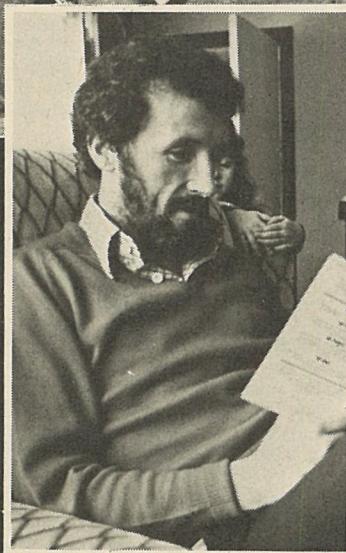
Any neutral would think it was Scotland's home game.

And didn't Rangers take 5,000 fans abroad for the first-leg of their Quarter-Final tie against Cologne? A German official called it the biggest travelling support he had ever seen in his life and that he expected only a few hundred Cologne fans to go to Glasgow for the return.

Well, I can assure him had it been Celtic, the following would have been at least as big. Scottish fans — and those from Glasgow in particular — are in love with football.

When Celtic appeared in European Cup Finals in Lisbon and Milan, they organised cavalcades of cars and buses to cross Europe from all over Scotland.

So while Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough was refusing live radio commentary at the home leg of their tie against Grasshoppers and still only 31,000 turned up, Rangers were having to



cope with ticket madness in Glasgow for the game at Ibrox.

Because of construction work, the capacity was reduced to 44,000 ... but Rangers could have sold twice as many tickets, even with the match live on television.

I have had a few letters from fans claiming I never seem to stop knocking English football and asking whether I have actually ever seen English clubs in action.

Well, I do. I travelled down to Manchester to see City in the first-leg of their U.E.F.A. Cup Quarter-Final against Borussia Mönchengladbach.

To be honest, I thought City struggled, although Asa Hartford was the best man on the park, just ahead of former European Player of the Year Allan Simonsen who really did impress me.

But with Willie Donachie playing at right-back and Brian Kidd, Mike Channon and Peter Barnes out of touch City were never going to win and deserved no better than their 1-1 draw. City really got hammered in the second-leg, losing 3-1.

Meanwhile, as the transfer season draws to its close, it set me thinking about the whole set-up. The highlight of course was the £1 million sale of Trevor Francis.

'SCOTTISH FANS WIN HANDS DOWN'

Is he worth it? Well, at first I would say no man is worth that kind of cash, but the very fact there are people willing to spend it proves there must be.

Good luck to Trevor, it's not his fault ... but what price Kenny Dalglish now?

I have never really known the meaning of the word transfer, but I am sure something like a £750,000 price tag on my head would not worry me the slightest.

Not that I am thinking of trying it. I have already made it clear I will be with Celtic as long as they want me — and not just for financial reasons.

I have nothing to prove by moving to England, because without being big-headed about it I know I am good enough to survive. It is just I happen to like living in Glasgow.

Mind you, maybe some day when I am on the way downhill and my international career is over, I would move to the States for a while just to try it out.

Celtic team-mate Bobby Lennox was over there last summer and thought it was marvellous and perhaps he planted a seed of curiosity somewhere. But it would

have to be in the right part of the States where the weather is good.

I'm not averse to a bit of sunshine you know!

Finally, I would like to send my best wishes to Roy Baines who moved from Celtic back to Morton after a two years' stay at Parkhead. Roy, one of the few Englishmen playing in Scottish football, is a fine goalkeeper and Morton have done a fine piece of business getting him back.

He joins another ex-Celtic keeper, Denis Connaghan at Cappielow. All the best boys ... except when you are facing your old club!

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN
TALK BY RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE

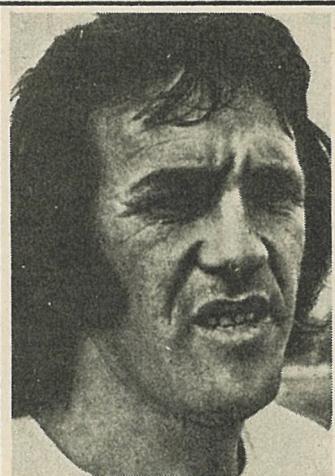
THE Danish branch of the International Union for Child Welfare hope to raise £150,000 at a game in Copenhagen on July 4th, The World against Denmark Football League. The following players have been invited:

WORLD: Maier, Zoff, Hellström, Haan, Tresor, Krol, Causio, Rossi, Rensenbrink, Bettega, Gerd Müller, Pelé, Krankl, Cruyff, Beckenbauer, Kempes, Bonhof, Ardiles, Platini.
DENMARK/FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Keegan, Dalglish, Shilton, Brady, Jennings, Gemmill, Simonsen, Henning Jensen, Arnesen, Lerby.

Unfortunately, the game falls at a time when many of the players will be on holiday, although the organisers say that so far they have had no negative replies. The players will receive no fee, all takings going to the charity.

AUSTRIAN World Cup player Willy Kreuz was delighted to have one of his goals chosen as *Goal of the Year* by Dutch television, receiving a Cup and a cheque for £400.

A few days later, playing for his club in an Austrian Cup game, he was sent-off ... and fined £400 by the directors of *Voest Linz*!



RIVER Plate's World Cup central striker Leopoldo Luque had a few sleepless nights when the club announced their intention to sign Chilean striker Oscar Fabbiani, who's notched 90 goals in the last three seasons. Luque, 30, feared this would mean a transfer listing for him, but in the event, River practically ignored Fabbiani (above) when he arrived in Buenos Aires and the Chilean went home sadly wondering why they'd invited him in the first place!

The other K.K. bids to be Europe's No.1

THE race to be Europe's top goalscorer is hotting up and one of the leading, if not so well-known, candidates is Kees Kist (right) of AZ '67. The Dutch striker had scored 21 goals after 19 games, which put him five behind Hans Krankl of Barcelona who had played five games more. Here, Kist speaks to Bert Jongen.

SHOOT: How important is it for you to be Europe's top scorer?

KIST: Very important for me and AZ. To top the goal list would be a great honour and I'm keeping my fingers crossed. My contract with the club is for another four years, but if I become Europe's Number One goalscorer ... well, maybe a big club will come after me. It will give me and my club other opportunities.

SHOOT: Now you're one of the favourites has life on the field become harder?

KIST: Goalscorers are taking a little extra 'care' of me, but all top scorers must live with this. I expect Krankl and Geels are having similar problems right now.

SHOOT: Generally speaking, how tight is the marking in the Dutch League?

KIST: Tactics here are different from, say, West Germany. In Germany, if you beat your marker you can often have a clear run to goal, but here a forward is invariably faced by two or three other defenders, so scoring is perhaps even more difficult.

SHOOT: You don't have a great

deal of European experience, Kees, and British readers don't know you that well.

KIST: We were in the U.E.F.A. Cup last season and beat a team from Luxembourg 16-1 on aggregate in the First Round. Then we were drawn against Barcelona and although the score was 2-2 after both ties, they won on penalties. I think AZ could be in the European Cup in the not too distant future, maybe the season after next. The team is coming together nicely and we are gaining experience all the time.

SHOOT: Tell us about your international career.

KIST: If I play, I like to be centre-forward, and after a game against Russia I refused to play again. That was two years ago and I was fed up with being played out of position. Now, things are better. I had a chat with manager Jan Zwartkruis and I've been playing again — as centre-forward. But if he asks me to play elsewhere I'll say 'no'. I'm a centre-forward and don't feel happy anywhere else.

SHOOT: Football in Holland was hit harder than most countries by the severe winter and you went



almost three months without playing.

KIST: It was very boring and frustrating to train all week for a game you knew would be postponed. If there was any advantage to be gained, it was that every player was really keen to get back into action again. We missed our football greatly.

SHOOT: What is the most you've scored in a season?

KIST: I scored 27 goals two years ago, which is my best to date, but I hope to beat that, at least, this time. I'd love to be known as the top scorer in Europe. We'll have to wait and see.

• Hungary have played 529 international matches in their 76 year history; won 285, drawn 111 and lost 133. But most interesting, 121 games have been against Austria!

WORLD WIDE

COMPILED BY CHRIS DAVIES

POLAND'S all time highest League goalscorer is Ernst Pohl of Gornik Zabrze with 186 goals. Nearest challengers of the current players are Kazimierz Kmiecik (Wisla Krakow) and Grzegorz Lato (Stal Mielec) with 101 each.

APPARENTLY, Teresa da Costa, a Brazilian, wants a divorce from her husband, Silveiro, because he never stops being a referee. Even at home, she says, he behaves like a ref, showing his wife the yellow and red cards when dissatisfied. When his dinner is not prepared to his liking she is shown a yellow card and if it happens again ... yes, it's a red one. That doesn't mean his wife is sent away; instead he cuts her housekeeping. All this, she claims, is too much for her and she wants a divorce.

BOTAFOGO HAPPY TO SELL THE BRAZILIAN PLAYBOY

PAULO César Lima (left), the Brazilian playboy star who so nearly joined Fulham a few months ago, has finally left Botafogo for Gremio of Porto Alegre. So keen were Botafogo to be relieved of Paulo César that they dropped his transfer fee from £200,000 to £50,000.

In fact, Botafogo had been offered £85,000 by Coritiba, but the player refused to sign, alleging that "life in Coritiba was too boring," further proof of his liking of the Rio de Janeiro life-style.

Eventually, Paulo César agreed to go to Gremio, where he will earn £3,500 per month. He was greeted at the airport by thousands of fans and announced: "Gremio can win the League Championship now," a reference to the fact they have lost nine titles to their rivals Internacional of Porto Alegre.

For the seventh time in his controversial career, he also said he hopes to forget the

past and live for the future, but the local Press was somewhat less happy than the supporters with the acquisition of Paulo César.

One paper, *Zero Hora*, ran the headline "Porto Alegre's night-life's best signing for years" and commented "Gremio should not forget to buy and take down to Porto Alegre a stretch of Rio's Ipanema Beach", where the player was usually seen surrounded by pretty girls.

Perhaps the strangest twist in the transfer was that on the same day Gremio paid £125,000 to XV de Novembro for an unknown striker Nadeia, further proof of how eager Botafogo were to release the former Brazil international.

• On his Gremio debut, a friendly against Argentine Champions Independiente, Paulo César made three goals, scored himself ... and was then sent-off for dissent!

I sometimes wonder what makes so many Italian fans head for the stadia Sunday after Sunday. On the 21st day in the League programme, only seven goals were scored in the whole of the First Division programme, and only four of the 16 teams managed to score. No wonder half the Italian First Division features in our list of Europe's Goal-Shy Wonders!

READING between the lines, it appears some of Europe's more modest clubs have hinted to U.E.F.A. that they're considering withdrawing from European competitions. Clubs from 'minnow' countries, like Cyprus, Malta and Iceland are usually eliminated in the First Round of the competitions and often make a financial loss if the travelling expenses are heavy.

U.E.F.A., alarmed at these possible "cracks" in the European structure, have hurriedly set up an emergency fund of £50,000 to re-imburse any club that incurs a financial loss in the opening rounds.

THE World Cup Final "replay" between Argentina and Holland in Switzerland in May to celebrate FIFA's 75th anniversary looks like being a farce.

Only half of the players from last year's Final will actually play — the Dutch players have club commitments, while Argentina's Cesar Luis Menotti has stated he won't use foreign-based Argentines for his country's summer tour.

FIFA had hoped to sell the television rights for £160,000, but there has been a lack of interest by the T.V. companies for the match.

A Spanish sports paper gave the Ipswich players some mystic names after the Cup-Winners' Cup-tie against Barcelona. The game, they said, was played at Port Road and their line-up included such well-known misprints as Osmar, Pivot, Buerley and — the best of them all — Bouch.

Bouch?

NEWS FLASHES

Rinus Israel, captain of Feyenoord when they won the European Cup in 1970, is still playing, at 37, for Premier Division PEC Zwolle, and has signed on again for next season.

In the first-half of the Bulgarian season, nine players were sent-off and 35 penalties awarded.

West German players have been offered a bonus of 30,000 DM (£7,500) each if they qualify for the final stages of the European Championship. This is a 25 per cent increase on 1976.

The day before Malta/West Germany, Bayern Munich and Hamburger SV played a friendly... and just 3,500 fans turned up. I can't remember the last time Kevin Keegan played in front of such a small crowd.

The Ferencvaros youth team is obviously a bit special. Their goal tally so far this season is an incredible 79 for and just one against!

Iraj Danaifard, a member of Iran's World Cup squad who played for TAJ — the state owned airline club — has joined the Tulsa Roughnecks.

ABC T.V. have signed a deal to screen ten N.A.S.L. League matches this year in the U.S.A. for a trial run.

The final accounts of the Italian Lega Nazionale have been published for 1977-78 and show that official League matches

STRIKE HITS PLAYERS' POCKETS

THE recent players' strike in Spain has had no positive outcome at all, and the consequences for the players could be a severe blow in the wallet if the clubs carry out their threatened disciplinary measures.

In an emergency meeting in Madrid, the club presidents agreed to fine the players ten per cent of their annual signing-on fee in retaliation for the "lost" League match. This makes it an expensive day off for some of the country's top players such as Johan Neeskens, who stands to lose £15,400!

And the total fines which could be imposed on players from the 78 clubs which took part in the strike are an incredible £1,316,000!

The fines are particularly harsh on players who are not members of the players' union, AFE, but were forced to go along with their colleagues and join the strike.

The list below gives you some idea of how much the top players stand to lose if the clubs stick to their decision:

Mario Kempes (Valencia)	£17,500
Johan Neeskens (Barcelona)	£15,400
Rainer Bonhof (right, Valencia)	£8,400
Hans Kranki (Barcelona)	£8,400
Luiz Pereira (Athletico Madrid)	£6,300
Joao Leivinha (Athletico Madrid)	£6,300
'Pirri' (Real Madrid)	£6,000
'Miguel' (Barcelona)	£5,600
Daniel Bertoni (Sevilla)	£5,600
Carlos Morete (Las Palmas)	£5,600
Uli Stielike (Real Madrid)	£5,600



Henning Jensen (Real Madrid)
Carlos Rexach (Barcelona)

Incidentally, for drawing 0-0 against West Germany in Valletta the Malta players received a bonus of £100, which was considered quite good for Maltese internationals.

Ministry of Labour along the lines of other 'normal' Spanish workers. This would arguably give the players greater freedom to negotiate their own transfers and contracts but, of course, there are all sorts of areas where they stand to lose important privileges.

And the 'normal workers' who attend soccer matches in Spain have been quick to point out they most certainly do not get top private medical attention in luxury clinics when they are ill; they don't get £400 a week bonus if they happen to do their job well; they don't have all their travelling expenses paid when going to work; and they all work considerably more than the 20 hours a week that the Spanish player averages.

The players' union is still insisting that footballers are 'normal workers', but they could be heading for Big Trouble and, especially if the fines continue, severe financial losses for their members.

When Spain's footballers eventually returned to work after their much-publicised strike, the fans weren't exactly overjoyed at the spectacle they were offered. Most teams were jeered when they ran on to the pitch, and the play wasn't up to much either. Only three visiting teams managed to score, and a dismal total of 23 yellow cards were shown and two players sent-off in nine First Division games.

Just in case

WEST German club Eintracht Frankfurt have two East Germans on their books — Jürgen Pahl and Norbert Nachtweih, who were granted political asylum when they fled whilst abroad with the DDR junior team a couple of years ago.

Eintracht played a friendly behind the Iron Curtain against the Hungarian Olympic team the other week, although it was "guaranteed" the two East Germans would "not be bothered" and be allowed to "return with the others".

Even so, they opted to stay in Frankfurt... just to be safe!

• Andrzej Ivan, at 18 the youngest player in the 1978 World Cup, has been banned from the Polish national team for a year after being arrested after a fight in an all-night cabaret club.

There are 70 foreign players spread amongst the 18 First Division clubs in Belgium. Holland provides most with 25 exports and second most popular in Belgium are West Germans, of whom there are ten.

Dutch star Rob Rensenbrink (white shirt) plays in Belgium for Anderlecht.



TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time



5. Nottingham Forest. (right) retained the League Cup when they beat Southampton 3-2 at Wembley. (a) How did the scoring go, (b) who skippered the League Champions to their success and (c) what was the half-time score?

6. Which Plymouth Argyle midfield player, who walked out on the club earlier this season, recently returned to Home Park?

7. **Teddy Maybank, Peter Ward or Paul Clark (below) was sent-off for Brighton against Sheffield United at The Goldstone Ground?**

8. Non-League Dagenham recently reached the Semi-Finals of the F.A. Trophy or F.A. Vase?

9. Lincoln City's 1-0 victory against Brentford at Sinclair Bank recently was only their third, fourth or fifth win of the season?

13. Ipswich Town were eliminated from the Cup-Winners' Cup when Barcelona progressed on the away goals rule. The Spanish side won 1-0 at home with a goal from Migueli in the 38th, 48th or 58th minute?

14. English football suffered another blow when West Brom failed to pull back a 1-0 deficit from the first-leg against Red Star Belgrade in the return at The Hawthorns. The game finished 1-1... who scored Albion's goal?

15. To complete a sorry picture for England, Manchester City went down 4-2 on aggregate to which West German team in the U.E.F.A. Cup?

ANSWERS

BRITAIN IN EUROPE
The Quarter-Finals second-leg ties of the three major European Cup competitions were played recently. Answer the following questions.

11. Why didn't Rangers play Cologne at Ibrox Park on March 22nd?

12. Nottingham Forest eased into the Semi-Finals when they drew 1-1 in Switzerland with Grasshoppers of Zurich. What was the aggregate score?

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (3) Shilton. (8) Aware. (10) Near. (11) Deepdale. (12) Gigg. (13) Ape. (15) Eight. (16) New. (17) Ross. (19) Eat. (21) St. (22) Shot. (24) Me. (25) Hunter. (27) Won. (28) Jet. (29) Drone. (30) Ramp. (31) Key. (32) Ash. (33) Surrey.

DOWN:— (1) Rangers. (2) Badges. (3) See. (4) In date order. (5) Leap. (6) Talent. (7) Ore. (9) Regis. (14) Sweeney. (18) Others. (20) At. (22) Steps. (23) He. (24) Money. (25) Wake.

Woke. (24) Money. (2)
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Eintracht Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens
BAHRAIN	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens
LEEDS Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens
WALES Away		Boys	Youths	Large
SAUDI ARABIA	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens
SHEFFIELD Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens
LEICESTER Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	Large
LEICESTER Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens
CRYSTAL PALACE Away		Boys	Youths	Large
ENGLAND Home		Boys	Youths	S/Mens
SINGAPORE Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	Large
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JOHN McGOVERN is the kind of player who enjoys each and every aspect of his profession. "I'm one of those daft footballers who even enjoys the training," says the Nottingham Forest midfielder and captain.

What is it like to skipper a side so rich in talent? A team that have already won one trophy this season — the League Cup.

"It's easy," says John. "The fact we've had such a good run since I took on the job three years ago helps, of course. Mind you, if I'm not pulling my weight people will shout at me just as much as I shout at them."

"The lads at Forest must be second to none in the country. There's never any arguments amongst ourselves, and it's teamwork that gets us through matches."

"I'm sure it's the same at Liverpool. I mean, they've got it off to a fine art. They're all just players and that's it. There's no so-called superstars in the side, and they've been successful for years."

"We've signed Trevor Francis who was top man at Birmingham. But now he's come here he's another member of the team."

"I can't see him having any trouble settling in because everybody's treated the same. Provided you give 100 per cent and nothing less, then you'll get a fair deal from the boss in return."

"I don't think the fee will affect him that much. Obviously it's unique. He's the first £1 million player, but he's playing in a side where there's possibly two or three who are also worth that amount."



Hartlepool and I was the slowest the Fourth Division had ever seen. I could beat the full-back, but I couldn't get away from him.

"I played on the wing when I first went to Derby, then I switched to midfield. The boss obviously thought this was the position for me. I also played as sweeper in the promotion year at Forest."

"I've worked under Brian Clough for about 14 years now and people ask me if he has changed in that time. Well, he hasn't. I don't know him all that much better now than when I first met him. He's my boss and I work for him. Our relationship is absolutely superb. I reckon he's the best in the business and I respect him."

"I've obviously been tagged as being his blue-eyed boy because he's taken me from various clubs to join him at others."

"That's utter nonsense. I get as many rollickings as anybody else from the boss."

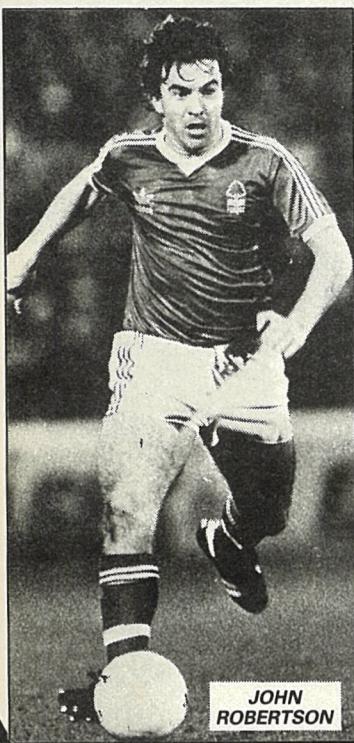
"One of the reasons why we are so successful is because of his way of handling players. He treats every single one exactly the same. There are no favourites at Forest."

"If we are having a team meeting and he's got something to say to you, then he'll say it to your face and in front of the other players. Everything's out in the open. He doesn't say one thing, then another behind your back."

"That's Brian Clough's way — and it works. His past record proves that. So will the future."

'No superstars at Forest'

says skipper JOHN McGOVERN



JOHN
ROBERTSON

"Peter Shilton, he's worth a million to us. So is John Robertson. He's poetry in motion when the ball's at his feet. If Trevor shows the same form as John has done over the last two or three years, then that will be good enough for us. Robertson's contribution has been nothing short of staggering."

"But if people are looking for a massive improvement to Nottingham Forest, then they're not going to get it. Francis isn't going to come in and start scoring hat-tricks every week."

"I know Brian Clough has said he's bought him to score goals, but the difference between sixth place in the First Division and retaining the Championship might rest on just four goals, which could be enough for us to get the extra three or four points needed."

"Who do I see as likely challengers for Forest's Champions crown? At the moment it looks as though Liverpool are firm favourites. Leeds, West Brom, Everton, and Arsenal are all there, of course. But don't rule us out. We'll be in there battling away in case any of them fall away."

"Every team's strength stems from the back-four and the team

with the best rearguard will win the Championship. Last season we had it. Colin Barrett, Larry Lloyd, Kenny Burns and Viv Anderson had a superb season. We all did to win it by seven clear points."

At one stage Forest were in with a chance of winning four competitions this season, but Arsenal beat them in the Sixth round of the F.A. Cup at the City Ground — their first home defeat in 50 matches.

Brian Clough and Peter Taylor didn't allow the team to brood on that set-back. A few weeks later Forest bounced back to retain the League Cup with a fine 3-2 victory over Southampton at Wembley.

Again the club made history, becoming the first to win the trophy two seasons running.

"Yes, things are still buzzing at Forest," says John. "But Wembley is past history now. At the moment we are concentrating on the European Cup, and our Semi-Final tie against Cologne."

John, 29, and born in Montrose, started his career as a 15-year-old with Hartlepool.

"I was actually there when Brian Clough became the manager," he says. "I played on the right-wing at



COLIN
BARRETT



BRIAN FLYNN
Leeds United

SHOOT!